



VIGIL IN TRIBUTE TO BOMB VICTIMS DISTURBED BY INCIDENT



Children at the Birmingham vigil for Manchester's victims

A CANDLE-LIT vigil in Birmingham in memory of those killed in the Manchester Arena bomb attack was cut short on Tuesday night after an armed man was detained nearby.

The man shouted out as he was handcuffed and led away by West Midlands Police officers, just a short distance from where 1,000 people had gathered in the city's main Victoria Square.

As he was taken away in a riot van in Edmund Street, which runs behind Birmingham's Council House, a police sergeant could be seen carrying away what appeared to be a baseball bat and a hatchet.

The 39-year-old Birmingham man – who is known to police and is thought to have

a history of mental illness – was arrested on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon.

Superintendent Andy Parsons, said: "Officers spotted the man acting suspiciously and spoke to him. At this point they have arrested him. The man was carrying a bag, and as a precaution, Victoria Square where the vigil was being held was cleared for around 15 minutes. A small axe was recovered along with a large stick.

"We will be interviewing the man to understand his intentions after mental health experts have assessed his condition.

"I'd like to thank people for the calm and collected way in which they responded to the incident. The professionalism of our of-

ficers who responded to the incident is also commendable."

Speakers who had been paying tribute to the victims of the Manchester bomb outrage were interrupted by the man's loud protests.

A terrorist exploded a device as thousands of young pop fans were leaving the Ariana Grande concert at the Manchester Arena. The American pop star had performed at the Genting Arena a few days before. The latest figures were that 22 had died and 59 hospitalised, including many children.

Local authorities have flown flags at half mast and held minute silences as a mark of respect.

● We Wept – See Page 3

EMERGENCY

Boy taken to hospital with multiple injuries

AN 11-year-old boy was taken to hospital after he was hit by a car in Great Barr.

It happened at the junction of Aldridge Road and Greenhill Road at 8.30am yesterday (Wednesday).

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said the boy suffered head, pelvic and hand injuries.

An ambulance service spokesman added: "One paramedic officer and one ambulance attended. He had suffered head and pelvic injuries and also potentially fractured fingers on his left hand. He was conscious and breathing and we immobilised him and he was taken on blue lights to the major trauma centre at Birmingham Children's Hospital."

ACCIDENT

Woman hit by car is left badly hurt

A 38-year-old woman has been left badly injured after being hit by a car in Gornal.

The woman suffered injuries to her face, right wrist, abdomen and left leg when she was hit by a black car on Zoar Street at around 12.20pm on Monday.

She was initially treated at Russells Hall Hospital and was then sent to the major trauma centre at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham for further treatment.

ROADS

Top 10 of worst potholes in region

THE worst potholes across Staffordshire and the Black Country have been highlighted to highways authorities thanks to Chronicle readers.

We invited readers to send pictures and details of some of the trouble spots being endured by motorists on our road network.

The most damaged roads and deepest craters have been identified and passed on to local councils to prioritise. Two of the top three have been identified now for major works in the summer and repairs have been carried out on at least two others.

● Full story and top 10 – Page 2

INSIDE

FRESH VISA JOY FOR COUPLE



PAGE 8

Beauty spot is shut because of perverts and dogs BAD BEHAVIOUR CLOSES WOOD

DOG attacks, drug dealing and outdoor sexual activity has forced the closure of a woodland beauty spot near Halesowen after officials deemed it unsafe for the public.

The Woodland Trust says it is the first time it has closed a woodland in the UK but the action is a 'last resort' after a spate of problems that has also included off-road bikes ripping through Uffmoor Wood and irresponsible dog owners allowing their pets to foul the bluebell wood. Complaints have been coming in weekly.

The trust says that some of the worst offences at the woods include dogs being attacked by other dogs that were not under control and a farmer's sheep being killed on neighbouring land.

Trust staff say they have been threatened, verbally abused and knocked over by dogs and they have also received complaints about groups of people meeting for sex in the woods.

Gareth Hopkins, regional operations manager for the Woodland Trust, said he was sorry that the woods were being put off-limits.

Unsafe

He added: "This is an absolute last resort, and we're very sad to take such severe measures.

"Drug dealing, out of control dogs and dog fouling have made this wood unsafe, despite our best efforts to work with – and educate – the irresponsible dog owners.

"We desperately wanted to keep Uffmoor open for all to enjoy.

"We hope this is not a permanent measure, and we extend our thanks to the responsible dog walkers and local people who love and care about the wood."

Previous efforts to tackle the concerns about bad behaviour in the woods have in-

Report by Lucy Thompson

cluded posters reminding dog walkers about the rules. Staff have also been speaking face to face with visitors during community action days.

Staff from the trust said despite these attempts to solve the problem, they had seen no positive change.

The police have been involved on several occasions but the situation has continued to get steadily worse, said the trust's bosses.

The wood has been closed as of this week and gates have been padlocked at every entrance.

Maintenance works will be carried out whilst the woodland is shut.

A trust spokeswoman said the closure was being treated as a permanent move, although staff hoped the site would reopen one day.

Councillor Margaret Sherrey said the news was 'sad'.

She added: "It's a problem that's been going on for some years. I can understand the reason they're closing it but it's just very sad because it's down to the misbehaviour of other people."

Take a Peaky as hit show returns



Stars Cillian Murphy and Charlotte Riley with crew on set for Peaky Blinders, filming in Dudley

LIGHTS, camera, hats on! Peaky Blinders returned to its spiritual home in the Black Country for filming of its new series.

The show's main man Cillian Murphy – who plays Brummie gangster Tommy Shelby – was snapped on set with cigarette in mouth at the Black Country Living Museum on Monday.

It caps a remarkable week for the popular Dudley venue, which last week hosted Steve Coogan and

John C Reilly for the filming of a new movie about Laurel and Hardy.

Murphy, aged 40, rose to prominence with his roles in horror movie 28 Days Later and then blockbuster Batman Begins. However, it is in the role of Shelby – the leader of the ruthless Peaky Blinders gang famed for the razor blades hidden in their cap peaks – that he has become one of the most famous faces on TV.

SPRING INTO ACTION!

UP TO **50% OFF**



Composite Doors
Fully Fitted from **£700**

Rehau A Rated
frames and glass

Also Available - Guardian Tiled
Roof System (LABC approved)



- uPVC Back & Front Doors Fully Fitted from **£460**
- Windows from **£180**
- Conservatories from **£4495**
- French Doors from **£700**
- Patio Doors from **£750**
- Extensions & Garage Conversions
- Friendly, personal touch and jobs completed to high standards



0800 080 7076 / 0121 532 0784 77 OVEREND STREET, WEST BROMWICH, B70 6EY

www.westmidlandsglazing.com



Bespoke requirements are no problem

GOOD DEALS AVAILABLE TO TRADE

2 CONTENTS

PETER RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
MEMORY LANE	12
THE TICKET	23
BRAIN GYM	29
PROPERTY	32
MOTORING	37 & 38
SPORT	39 & 40
CONTACT US	

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Nicola Cope
Tel: 01902 319573
E-mail: nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Colin Bailey
Tel: 01902 313131 ext 3731
E-mail: colin.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Liz Barratt
Tel: 01384 353244
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

Halesowen
CHRONICLE

51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
www.yourchronicle.com

DON'T MISS YOUR
Express & Star

EVERY DAY
ON THE BALL
All your latest sports updates

EVERY SATURDAY
NIGEL HASTILOW
He always tackles the hot topics head-on

Denture Care

New dentures will allow you to eat, smile and talk with CONFIDENCE!

- We have a special interest in your denture
- Listening to our patients, communication is key for success
- We can spend over 3 hours to ensure the perfect smile
- The most advance techniques are used to customise your denture all under one roof
- A range is available to accommodate everyone's budget.

NEW DENTURES

COPY DENTURES

NATURAL LOOKING

DENTURE REPAIR

Providing a professional, personal & discreet service. Patient satisfaction is our highest priority

CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION
Lee Torrington 01384 468 648
CDT RCS ENG RDT.
3a BLACKBERRY LANE, HALESOWEN, B63 4NX

HOME VISITS AVAILABLE

Readers drive home point over crumbling routes



The road surface in Buchanan Avenue, Walsall



A picture showing the problems in Stourbridge



Problems highlighted in Station Road, Wombourne

Worst potholes on our roads revealed

TOP OF THE POTS

WE knew the state of the roads in the Black Country and Staffordshire was bad – we just didn't realise how bad!

When The Chronicle launched its campaign to highlight the most pothole-ridden roads in our region in order that they should get priority for repairs, we were already aware of a few trouble spots.

But we have been inundated with emails, reports and pictures of some shocking holes endured by drivers on a daily basis.

Based on the number of reports and looking at the pictures readers have sent us, we have compiled a top 10 of what we believe are the worst roads for potholes in our area. The most complaints we received were regarding roads in Staffordshire taking six of the top ten spots.

Hill Top at Hednesford was reported to us by a number of people and pictures showed a succession of potholes all around these busy islands and the roads which approach it. Reader Paul Gill sent us one picture where fresh road markings had been painted over the potholes with a large dip in one line as it sank into a hole.

Reporting

Carlisle Road on the Longford Estate in Cannock, was flagged up by locals and a number of pictures submitted. Resident Sandra McLeod said: "The whole length of the road is riddled with bad potholes."

Five Ways Island in nearby Heath Hayes was flagged up as having 38 separate outstanding complaints about the state of the road surface. There were several complaints about the A449 along its length through Kingswinford. One reader, Jo Well, complained: "There is a strong possibility of an accident on this busy, fast road as drivers swerve to avoid them."

Many readers complained about the state of the A460 from the motorway island for junction 11 of the M6 heading into Cannock. Wombourne was flagged up by a number of readers as having crumbling roads, particularly around Station Road, while Pattingham was also highlighted.

In addition we received shocking pictures of small craters on roads in Stourbridge, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Roads in Great Wyrley and Rugeley also featured regularly.

Did your road make it in our worst potholes list?

The Chronicle's Top 10:

Hill Top, Hednesford – works beginning in August

Carlisle Road, Longford Estate, Cannock – no date set

Five Ways Island, Heath Hayes – works beginning in July

A449 through Kingswinford – 'added to future programme of work'

A460/M6 junction 11 island and surrounding area – repairs now carried out

Station Road and surrounding area, Wombourne – no date set

High Street, Pattingham – no date set

Romsley Road, Stourbridge – 'action as soon as possible'

Buchanan Avenue, Walsall – repaired

Wergs Hall Road, Wolverhampton – no response

The Chronicle has taken the results to the relevant councils and there is good news for local people. A programme of work to resurface the roads and replace damaged kerbstones as part of a £240,000 investment is to take place at Hill Top, with work due to get under way this August. Similarly, significant work is planned for the Five Ways Island with a five-week project due to start in July.

And work has already taken place to repair some of the potholes and damage on the A460/M6 junction 11 island since the Chronicle readers initially flagged up the problems.

Staffordshire's highways chief Mark Deaville said: "We have to prioritise pothole repairs where they pose the biggest risk to members of the public and are currently finalising our programme of re-



Hill Top, Hednesford, riddled with potholes



A copy of the E&S in a Wergs Hall Road pothole



Five Ways island in Heath Hayes, Cannock

pairs for the next 12 months to ensure it delivers the maximum benefits with the budget available."

Alan Lunt, strategic director for place directorate at Dudley Council, said: "We have a robust system in place with inspection teams who identify road defects such as potholes, with the most severe cases highlighted for urgent attention. Clearly, we have to prioritise the most serious problems above others but we are working to deal with as many as we can."

Walsall Council said: "We were aware of the repairs required at Buchanan Avenue and have undertaken pothole repairs with a Velocity Patcher. We can confirm that there is no longer any significant damage outstanding in the area."

Wolverhampton Council has not yet responded.

Motorist is jailed after collision kills man aged 90

A DRIVER who fled the scene of a crash that killed a 90-year-old man has been jailed for 18 weeks.

Matthew Raybould, 27, of Buffery Road, Dudley, was driving from work to his grandparents' house on November 25 when he hit Frederick Dudley on Stourbridge Road, Wolverhampton.

Mr Dudley, of Barnett Road, Wolverhampton, had been crossing the road with a shopping trolley after getting off a bus but had not been on a crossing, Cannock Magistrates Court heard.

Raybould saw his windscreen crack and felt a bump but carried on driving. He pleaded guilty to failing to stop after a collision on the A449.

Prosecutor Mr Kul Khaira said: "The defendant was in the process of over-taking a vehicle on the dual carriageway when he collided with the victim, who suffered serious injuries and was pronounced dead later that day.

"The defendant left the scene but was seen by a colleague who had been driving behind him and later told police about what had happened."

Defending Raybould, Mr Jason Georgiou said: "His only problem was driving off. He did this because he was scared and panicked."

Chief magistrate Andrew Nelson sentenced Raybould to 18 weeks in prison, banned him from driving for 12 months and ordered him to pay £200 in court costs. He said: "You made no effort to own up to what you had done wrong."

Rebecca's father hosts music tent

THE father of a young woman who died after being hit by a speeding sports car is hosting an acoustic music tent in memory of his daughter at an annual event.

Gerard McManus will organise the music venue for the Warley in the Woods event on July 2 to play host to various acoustic musicians.

His daughter Rebecca, from Oldbury, a former Stourbridge A-levels student, was 21 when she was struck by a car racing at 100mph, as she waited at a bus stop on the Hagley Road in Bearwood. She was a promising poet who had just completed an English Literature and Creative Writing degree at the University of East Anglia.

Mr McManus said: "Rebecca was passionate about music."

Woman is taken to hospital after crash

A CRASH involving two cars and a lorry saw a woman tged in her 20s taken to Russells Hall Hospital suffering from back pain. The accident happened on the Birmingham New Road in Dudley, near to Tesco Extra petrol station, just after 9am Friday.

ABC CARPET CLEANING

CARPETS & UPHOLSTERY STEAM CLEANED

Leather suites cleaned and waxed

Room up to 12 x 13

SPECIAL RATE £35

2nd ROOM FREE

(excluding stairs)

CARPETS TURBO DRIED

Rooms dry in approx. 2 hrs

Commercial Quotes Available



Ring Ken on:

01384 292065
077 900 700 10

Footworks Chiropody

Now Registered Chiropodists

Ingrown Toe Nails Treated

Toe Nail Cutting and Trimming

Diabetic Foot Care

General Foot Care

Callus Reduction

Home Visit Service Also Available

01384 413444

201 - 203 Halesowen Road, Old Hill, B64 6HE

Handicap Accessible

BROKEN DENTURES?

AT THE DENTAL SHOP

Need Your Dentures Repairing Fast Well Look No Further We Are The Leading Specialists In Denture Repairs!

We Also Offer A Denture Cleaning Service!

01384 413444

07701 067261

Emergency Weekend Repair Service Available

The Dental Shop, 125-127 Halesowen Road, Old Hill, B64 6HE

Concern over caravan invasion

TRAVELLERS have set up camp on a field near Dudley town centre.

The group moved onto a field on Lister Road in a total of 17 caravans.

Ward councillor Shaikat Ali said he'd received various complaints about the travellers and the council was working to remove them.

He said: "I've had a number of complaints from residents. We're going to move them from the site as soon as possible."

It comes after travellers set up camp at Rowley Regis train station car park on Friday.

'Wonderful son' hit by M5 coach

A MAN described as a 'wonderful son' has been named as the victim who was killed when he was hit by a coach on the M5.

Nicholas Mowl, aged 41, was involved in the accident on the M5 southbound between Junction 1 and the link road with Junction 8 of the M6 last Tuesday.

Mr Mowl was confirmed dead at the scene.

A tribute from his family described Mr Mowl, from Solihull, as a 'wonderful son, brother and uncle who was loved so much'.

'Buddy bench' is donated to school

A HOUSEBUILDER has donated a 'buddy bench' has been donated to a primary school to foster friendship on the playground.

The brightly coloured bench has been gifted to Hagley Primary School by the McCarthy and Stone.

Lise Hyland, assistant headteacher at Hagley Primary School, said: "By having a buddy bench in the playground our children support each other when someone needs to talk or find someone to play with."

International Festival of Glass in August

THE International Festival of Glass is returning to Stourbridge Glass Quarter from August 25 to 28.

The seventh annual festival will include lectures, workshops, exhibitions, taster sessions and family activities across the individual festival sites including the Ruskin Glass Centre in Wollaston Road.

There will also be street entertainment and heritage walks.

For more information see the festival website ifg.org.uk.

Revenue up for hotels

MILLENNIUM & Copthorne Hotels, which includes the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill, saw revenue rise by 16.1 per cent to £223 million in its first quarter to the end of March.

The Copthorne Hotel is near the Merry Hill shopping centre, on Level Street, and is a four-star hotel.

No evidence for schoolgirl claim about abduction

REPORTS of a 12-year-old girl being abducted on her way home from school were made up, police have revealed.

The girl told officers she was dragged into a taxi by four men as she left her school in Stourbridge last Thursday. She said she was then driven to Clent, five miles away, where she was able to get out of the car.

But police officers, who launched an 'extensive investigation', have revealed the account was untrue. West Midlands Police spent 'countless hours' checking CCTV in the bid to identify a vehicle and any offenders.

A statement said: "After monitoring her route they found no evidence of the alleged attack."

The report resulted in schools across the Dudley borough issuing alerts in letters parents and pupils.

Detective Sergeant Matt Slattery said: "Incidents of child abduction are thankfully rare, but any reports of such are rigorously investigated and any bogus accounts will be quickly uncovered."

"Detectives responded in the way people would expect when faced with a report of a child being abducted. As the inquiry progressed, it quickly became clear the incident had not happened in the way it was described to us. I know that this allegation caused fear among local residents and, although the investigation continues, and the girl is being supported, I want to stress that the public were never in any danger."

£50k grant joy at glass museum

A NEW museum in the Black Country has taken a huge step towards completion after being awarded a £50,000 grant.

Trustees behind the White House Cone Museum of Glass in Wordsley have spoken of their joy after receiving the crucial funding which will help keep the ambitious project on track.

The museum is being created at the former Stuart Crystal factory, near the famous Red House Glass Cone.

It has been made possible thanks to a £2.1 million cash injection from the European Development Fund and a £900,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Now a further £50,000 has been donated from the Garfield Weston Foundation, ensuring the project gets across the finishing line.

Flats revamp at empty former pub

A PUB in Stourbridge, empty for two years, could be part demolished and converted into flats. SEP Properties Ltd has applied to demolish extensions at The Bulls Head on Pedmore Road and create two flats

Proud new mayor picks his charities



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Dave Tyler

THE new Mayor of Dudley has pledged to support three charities as he officially took charge of the famous civic chains.

Councillor Dave Tyler has been sworn in as the first citizen of the borough.

The former deputy mayor named Dudley Mind, the YMCA and Dudley Alzheimer's Society as his chosen charities for the year - and vowed to do all he could to raise money for people in most need.

Councillor Tyler said: "It is a huge honour and a privilege to be mayor

of this borough and something I am proud to take on.

"It is an opportunity to not only highlight the fantastic work that these charities do to support people who need help, but also help raise vital funds to help them carry on for many years."

Councillor Tyler also named his wife Barbara as Mayoress. The deputy mayor was named as Councillor Alan Taylor with Winifred Taylor as deputy Mayoress. People can follow the Mayor on his civic engagements on Twitter via @DudleyMayor

Meanwhile, Dudley's first Muslim mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif, who served as Mayor of Dudley for the last 12 months, said he was honoured to serve the borough. He helped to raise more than £37,000 for charities during his mayoral year.

Addressing the council, he said: "This year has been an amazing journey. I have truly been honoured to serve the Dudley borough as mayor. I have seen some amazing work being done in the borough. Both me and my wife Zebeda have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it."

We wept for them, both with sadness and relief

Why Manchester bomb horror was too close to home for DIANE DAVIES



AS literally hundreds of parents waited in the foyer of Genting Arena, we were hit by a sudden tidal wave of excited teenage girls.

At the head of the pack of schoolgirl 'clones' was my beaming daughter and her friend delighted at their nifty escape from the sold-out arena. Almost hoarse from singing and shouting they regaled every detail of the Ariana Grande show, totally in awe of the US singer.

That was less than a week ago and it was Birmingham. At that very point at the end of the gig in Manchester, as thousands more teenage girls and gig-goers were greeted by their waiting parents, a bomb went off.

The devastation, terror and bloodshed that caused is unbearable. My daughter's friend and her mother were both in tears as the news broke - as were we.

We wept for the victims killed and maimed by some evil lunatic who deliberately targeted the young and innocent simply enjoying a night of music. We wept for their families whose lives were torn apart by the slaughter that night.

Evil

But secretly, almost ashamedly, we wept a little for ourselves, relief that this time it was Manchester not Birmingham and that I left that venue with two happy, young girls.

How anyone could stand among those throngs of beautiful young people, see their smiling faces, and then detonate a lethal bomb is incomprehensible. That is an act of pure evil, no religion or cause would condone this sadistic murder of children.

I, like many other parents, have questioned whether or not I would allow my teenage daughter to go to shows like this again. If asked whether these cowardly acts of terrorism would stop me going to gigs, absolutely not. The terrorists will not win.

But will I still let my daughter go? Still raw from the horror of Manchester, I am not so sure. I asked my daughter if she would still want to see Ariana or anyone else in concert again. She said: "Definitely."

We are all a bit scared but if my daughter refuses to give in to terrorists then neither will I!

Carnival has chosen its royal family



Halesowen Carnival royalty, from left, Olivia, Labique, Meggan and Henry, help publicise the July 1 event

FOUR young people have been recognised for overcoming personal difficulties and for community work by being appointed as 'royalty' ahead of this year's Halesowen Carnival.

Seventeen-year-old Labique Ahmad was crowned king with 20-year-old Meggan Griffin appointed queen. The 'Royal Family' have been sponsored by Sadler's Ales, one of the breweries that will be in attendance at the carnival's

food and drink festival at Highfield Park on July 1. The carnival will be spread over two fields this year due to increasing popularity.

Dance Vivante and Cannon Dance Academy performed a flash mob which made shoppers stop in their tracks and gather at Somers Square to hear the carnival news.

Carnival King Labique is a student at King Edward College in Stourbridge. He was nominated because of community work he

does through his mosque. Meggan raises money for Cancer Research UK and Macmillan in memory of her brother.

Carnival Prince Henry Torrington is a pupil at Lutley Primary School and was nominated because of his bravery in the face of kidney failure. Princess Olivia Hanks has overcome a tragedy.

To volunteer or to sponsor an event contact halesowencarnival@gmail.com.

Create an Entrance this Spring...



SPRING OFFERS NOW ON

...and Visit Our Showroom!



BANK HOLIDAY SPECIAL OFFER

1 DAY ONLY

Black Cezanne Composite Door, Twin Vert, Clear Bevelled Diamond Glass, Chrome Letter Plate and Knocker.

ONLY £975 FITTED



* DESIGN YOUR OWN DOOR ONLINE * VIEW OUR INSTALLATIONS GALLERY * READ OUR CUSTOMER TESTIMONIALS

Oak Lodge Buildings, Furnace Hill, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3LZ

www.oaklodedoors.co.uk ☎ 0121 550 1444



OAK LODGE DOORS LTD
COMPOSITE DOOR SPECIALISTS

4 Mayor's task force on rough sleeping

THE first meeting has taken place of a task force set up by West Midlands Mayor Andy Street to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping across the region.

The Mayor's Homelessness Task Force gathered on Friday and includes Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson and Assistant Chief Constable Alex Murray. It also includes charities such as St Basil's, the Royal British Legion, SIFA Fireside, Langar Aid, Emmaus Coventry and Dudley-based CHADD.

There are representatives from housing groups, local authorities and businesses.

The first focus of the group is to oversee a dramatic reduction in the levels of rough sleeping but with a focus on the underlying issues.

Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, said: "The message that came back from people I spoke to on the election campaign was that they want the Mayor to tackle the issue of rough sleeping. It's a situation that shames us as a region. This is why I am personally going to lead the response."

"Reflecting on the meeting, it is clear there is already lots of brilliant work, notably from the charity sector. However, there is also a clear need for co-ordination addressing the underlying issues".

Fewer children in care as council's service improves

THE NUMBER of children looked after in care has fallen by nearly nine per cent in Dudley over the last two years, new figures for the local authority show.

It comes as it was revealed case loads for social workers in the borough have eased and the number leaving has reduced significantly as a result.

Dudley Council has released the figures as it continues to make good progress in improving social care services for children and young people in the borough.

In January last year, the council's children's services were rated as 'inadequate' following a visit by inspectors from Government watchdog Ofsted.

But council bosses were praised for making 'positive progress' in a number of key areas after a follow-up monitoring visit by inspectors in February.

And the latest figures show the authority is continuing to move in the right direction.

One of the key areas identified for improvement by the council was to reduce the number of children in care.

The figures show there were a total of 674 children being looked after at the end of the current financial year. That is nearly nine per cent down on the statistics for

By Alex Ross

2014/15, where there were 737 in the council's care.

Tony Oakman, Dudley Council's strategic director for people, said: "The figures are a very encouraging sign that we are continuing to move in the right direction."

"We recognise, of course, that there is still a long way to go and we will always strive to continue making improvements to the service we offer."

"If social workers have less cases to deal with, they are likely to be under less pressure and can put more time into each one."

"We want to reduce the number of children and young people being taken into care for their wellbeing and safety, where it is safe and appropriate to do so."

He added: "Our aim is that all children living in Dudley grow up safe, healthy and in a loving environment."

Oarsome! Dragon boats race to success



The crew from the Horse and Jockey pub, Wall Heath, enjoying the dragonboat race

AN ANNUAL dragon boat race celebrated its 17th anniversary with more than 300 people taking part in the extravaganza on the Great Pool in the grounds of Himley Hall, near Dudley.

The race saw 21 teams hop into colourful dragon boats, all in the name of charity.

Thousands arrived at Himley Park on Sunday to see participants from across the Black Country take part in the challenge. It raised thousands for a variety of charities.

The event, organised by Wolverhampton Rotary Club, has raised almost £320,000 over the years. It involves a 350-yard race with teams competing in various heats. Sedgley Scorpions won.

Money raised from each team is equally divided, with half going to the team's chosen charity and the other half going to the Rotary Club, who donate the money to causes both local and worldwide.

Rotarian Mike Boyce, chairman of the dragon boat committee, said: "It's been a fantastic event."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Museum night draws crowds

BLACK by day and red by night - the industrial roots of the Black Country were explored at an annual event which drew in more than a thousand people.

Hammers clanged and sparks flew as visitors to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley. As part of the European annual Museums at Night festival, the museum opened its doors on Saturday for reduced admission.

Craftsmen, a brass quartet and Victorian shopkeepers were among the line-up along the cobbled streets of the outdoor museum on Tipton Road.

Andrew Lovett, director and chief executive at Black Country Living Museum, said: "It is the first of our evening events and we're doing many more."

Light aircraft in a crash landing

AN aircraft crashed at an airfield near Wolverhampton after overshooting a runway as it came in to land.

The Piper PA28 Warrior II crashed at Wolverhampton Airport, on Six Ashes Road, Bobbington, near Stourbridge, on Tuesday. Emergency services were called shortly before 3pm.

There were no reports of injuries but medics had to assess four occupants, aged in their 60s and 70s.

A spokesman for the airport said the plane overshoot the runway crashing into a tyre wall. The Civil Aviation Authority will investigate.

Yew Tree Nursing Home

FAMILY FUN DAY AND DOG SHOW

In aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital

Saturday 10th June 11am - 4pm

DOG SHOW CATEGORIES:-

- ◆ Waggiest Tail ◆ Best Puppy ◆ Best Golden Oldie
- ◆ Best Rescue ◆ Best Fancy Dress ◆ Most Like Owner
- ◆ Best Trick ◆ Best Child Handler ◆ Best In Show

Rosette and Trophy awarded for 1st place

Rosettes for 2nd and 3rd place

Entries from 10.30

Stallholders Wanted £10 per stall contact Vicky Mills on 01562 710 809 option 2 or email Vicky.yewtree@gmail.com for further information.

All proceeds from stalls will go to the charity.

Yew Tree Place, Romsley, B62 0NX Tel: 01562 710809

Charity no 517636

INSPIRATIONAL FIRES & FIREPLACES

Be Inspired ...

NOW STOCKING

A WIDE SELECTION OF BEAUTIFUL MIRRORS TO COMPLEMENT YOUR FIRE

Official stockists of **CHILNEY'S**

Showroom: 404-406 Bearwood Road, Bearwood B66 4EX Tel: 0121 429 3186

Opening Times: Monday-Saturday 10.00am-6.00pm

www.inspirationalfires.co.uk email: info@inspirationalfires.co.uk

VISA MasterCard

Fantastic offers now on at Flavours

Indian & Bangladeshi Takeaway

Set Menu - Traditional Dishes - Special Dishes

Meal for 2	1 Veg Curry (side)
1 Sheek Kebab	1 Pilau Rice
1 Onion Bhaji	1 Naan
1 Bhuna Chicken	2 Poppadoms
1 Balti Meat	£16.95

QUOTE LOCAL ADS FOR 15% off Orders (Collection only)*

10% off Delivered (over phone)* *Min spend £15

MUCH MORE AVAILABLE ON OUR MAIN MENU CALL NOW FOR DETAILS

facebook

32 High Street, Quinton B32 1AG

0121 421 4400 - 0121 421 1784

Concept BLINDS

UP TO 50% OFF ALL BLINDS

Vertical & Roller Blinds

New season fabrics now available

Child Safety Features Fitted Free of Charge

5 YEAR GUARANTEE

Also available

- Romans • Pleated
- Conservatory Roof Blinds
- Wood Venetians
- Venetian Blinds
- Curved Tracks for Bay Windows

FREE Fitting on all blinds

FREEPHONE 0800 5875279

Open Seven Days a Week 0121 429 3169

FREE Home Quote. FAST Delivery

Regeneration is main aim of new leader

POWER has been seized by the Tories on the council with its new leader pledging a wholesale review of regeneration to 'make Dudley boom'.

The Conservatives took control after support from UKIP saw Labour toppled.

Patrick Harley has now replaced Pete Lowe as leader of the authority and he has already outlined his early plans.

Councillor Harley, who has served Kingsford South since 2004, said: "The whole council now needs to come together and work together to push through initiatives to move Dudley forward. Regeneration, jobs and employment will be at the forefront of our vision."

"We need to not cutback on front line services but instead focus on change and transforming them. Ultimately there needs to be more consultation and dialogue between the three parties."

"It was very brave of UKIP to do what they did but it was the right thing to do for the better. We need to now work together to push through bold initiatives to move Dudley forward."

Among his priorities is parking. The new boss said two-hour free parking, offered at some of the council's car parks, needs to be made permanent across all sites.

Bridge work to close busy road in Tipton

PART of a busy road will be closed for almost a fortnight as work is carried out on a railway bridge.

Park Lane East in Tipton will be blocked between June 5 and June 16 as scaffolding is removed from around the bridge.

The road connects Dudley Port to Sedgley Road East.

Gardener unearths Second World War explosive device

£12m move by casino creates 72 jobs



An artist's impression of Casino 36 at Castlegate in Dudley, which will replace the nearby Castle Casino

A CASINO and bingo hall will move to a Dudley retail park as part of a £12 million investment creating 72 jobs.

Castle Casino will relaunch as Casino 36 and move to a new building at Castlegate Park. The venue will be over two floors with the casino upstairs.

Bosses hope the move to the busy retail park will see it benefit from being close to other attractions including the

Showcase Cinema and restaurants. The larger venue is expected to open next year.

The move continues the company's investment, coming after the recent launch of a casino in Wolverhampton.

Group general manager Craig Dobson said: "Castlegate Park already has many great facilities, we wanted to build on that and drive more visitors to the area."

"We are keen to maintain the traditional Black Country roots of our existing Castle Casino but with a modern look."

"The ground floor will house a 450 seat main stage bingo hall, which will provide up to 14 sessions per week, with state-of-the-art facilities and technology. The casino will provide all the traditional casino favourites, as well as the latest innovations."

A WOMAN planting runner beans in the garden of her Lower Gornal home uncovered a Second World War explosive, thought to be an artillery shell.

The Army's Explosive Ordnance Team was called to the 'small, rusty ordnance' in Lower Gornal last week – the day after bomb disposal experts detonated a massive Nazi bomb uncovered in Aston.

Homes surrounding the house in Stickley Lane were evacuated before the team took the device away.

Keith Hemmings, aged 71, described the moment his neighbour, Irene, discovered the wartime relic. He said: "I gave my neighbour some runner beans to plant in her garden. Then she shouted over the fence 'come and have a look at what this is'. She'd hit it with her spade while digging."

"I went around and picked it up and stood it on its end. It looked like a bottle full of dirt."

Evacuated

He called the police, who evacuated residents from nearby homes. Bomb disposal experts attended.

He added: "It was all sorted fairly quickly and there was no need for a controlled explosion – they just took it away. It was about nine inches tall."

"We think that a shed used to be in the spot where it was found, so it must have been underneath for years."

"I thought I could have bloody blown myself up!"

West Midlands Police spokesman Brigg Ford said: "Officers were alerted at around 11.20am after a resident uncovered what is thought to be an old artillery shell in a garden. The road had been closed and some houses evacuated as a precaution."

The bomb squad left by 2pm.

Metro supply offer to local businesses

DOZENS of West Midlands companies are being offered the chance to help build a series of multi-million pound Metro tram extensions over the coming decade.

Firms and contractors attending an event in Wolverhampton heard how the Midland Metro Alliance wants to see around 80 per cent of its suppliers to be from the West Midlands.

The Midland Metro Alliance, which is building six extensions on behalf of the West Midlands Combined Authority, held a supplier day to give companies key information on the opportunities being generated by the new tram lines planned across the region.

Phil Hewitt, Metro programme director said: "Making a success of these infrastructure schemes will benefit a number of local firms which will help to safeguard jobs as well as generating new ones."

Make the **RIGHT** decision this Spring and give **RYDALE** a ring...

RYDALE

SPRING SALE



Windows, Doors, Conservatories, Orangeries, Porches, Fascias and Soffit Boards

Cleaning Services now available to restore all your uPVC products. Guttering and Driveways cleaning available

No deposits or stage payments, you only pay when the installation has been completed

Visit one of the largest conservatory and window showrooms in the UK

Supplied & Fitted... across the Midlands

Repair Service Available



Replace the existing roof on your conservatory and create a comfortable environment and a room you can use all year round



Every window and conservatory is custom made to the most rigorous quality standards you will find in the industry. No other company in the area has more experience and know how than Rydale, and that's why we have been in business for more than 30 years.



MASSIVE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON JUNE INSTALLATIONS

FREEPHONE 0800 917 6060 www.rydalewindows.co.uk Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen B62 9LS

Open Weekdays: 9am to 5:30pm
Saturday: 9am to 4pm Sunday Closed

IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Why is the old £1 coin taking a pounding

DISCOVERED any of the old paper £5 notes in your wallets or purses in the past week or two?

You will no doubt know they are no longer legal tender, and will have to be exchanged at the bank. It will be the same with the old, round £1 coins. While half the country's vending machines and parking meters do not seem to be ready for the new, multi-sided coins, we will still be expected to dispense with the old coins by October.

But why the indecent haste? The new fiver only entered circulation in September, yet in less than eight months it has become currency non-grata. The new pound coin has only been with us a few weeks, yet there seems to be a real hurry to get rid of them.

When the original pound coin was introduced in 1983, the old £1 note continued to be legal tender for another five years, allowing it to gradually be phased out without any inconvenience. I can't see any reason why they can't do the same today.

□□□

THERE are many, many things on which I disagree with Jeremy Corbyn – giving children the vote for a start – but when it comes to hospital parking charges, he is spot on.

Having spent the past six weeks making twice-daily visits to a seriously ill loved, the experience was traumatic enough, without being fleeced over parking.

For most of that time I parked on a housing estate across the road, probably to the chagrin of residents. Well sorry folks, but I always took care to park legally and considerately.

Anyway, had I not done this, it would have cost me £4.60 every time, or £9.20 a day. That's just over £285 a month, the cost of a small mortgage. Or to put it another way, it is more than half the basic state pension.

Who has got that sort of money? Apart from the bigwigs who come up with ideas like this, of course.

□□□

HOW to get people out to vote. Last week a leaflet came through the door for one of the candidates in my constituency, urging us not to worry about national politics, but to judge him on his record locally.

"The vote here will have no impact on the national picture," he says in his leaflet. Which I think roughly translates as "don't worry, the other side are going to win anyway."

Having known the gentleman in question for well over 20 years, I would agree that he is extremely hard-working and committed to his constituents.

But something is very wrong when a politician's election battle-cry is that a vote for him won't make any difference to how the country is run.

Political ramblings starting to reach a crescendo



Tony Blair in 1997, but how much did his victory have to do with his hunting ban pledge?



Is it a hare, or is it a Leprechaun? Answers on a postcard to....(not really!)



Jeremy Corbyn, denoting his A-level passes, all two of them. Yes, maths not a strong point

Will May be foxed in her hunt for power?

"THE proverb that money does not buy you happiness is a lie put about by the rich to stop the poor killing them." Sir Michael Caine, as quoted this week by Max Hastings.

THERESA May says she supports fox hunting and would allow a free vote in Parliament on repealing the hunting ban. Big mistake. Hunting is a pastime enjoyed by only a few thousand people yet it offends millions. Successive opinion polls show that a majority of Britons – even in rural areas – are opposed to it. And while it is not something that would swing an election result alone, it is an issue which persuades people who might otherwise not vote to go to the polling station and vote against it.

HUNTING probably played a part in Tony Blair's 1997 landslide victory when Labour's manifesto included a promise to ban it. It certainly affected the Wolverhampton South West result where the lifelong hunter and Tory grandee Nick Budgen lost his seat to the passionately anti-hunt Jenny Jones. It was a surprising result (not least to Jones who resigned after just one term in the Commons). I was there at the count and will never forget the exultation as Labour's majority of 5,118 was announced. I wrote at the time: "As the feely-huggy brigade cheered Jenny Jones, a great roar went up, like a pack baying at the kill. And they reflected on how easily they had flushed out and culled the fox-hunting barrister in Wolverhampton South West. Tallyho." Cold logic tells us that the fate of a small furry predator should not influence great affairs of state. But it does, and by supporting the hunt Theresa May is risking millions of votes.

ISRAEL has released covert footage of a Palestinian hunger striker allegedly eating biscuits and sweets in his cell. I am reminded of a reader some years ago who solemnly informed me

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



that, all other tactics having failed, he was going on hunger strike to pursue a grievance with his local council. Three hours later he rang to say he had called it off. Had he forced the council to back down? "No," he explained. "I was bloody famished."

A FORMER comrade of the hate preacher Anjem Choudary is reported to have returned from Syria to the UK where he is working as a pizza delivery rider. Hell, this is serious. In the great scheme of things, I bet far more lardy-arse Britons are killed every year by take-away pizza than by terrorism. Double-thick, special greasy 12-inch with extra spicy sausage for the infidel at No 33.

WALKING down the lane, I spotted a little chap not more than two feet tall with his arms folded. We studied each other, 100 yards apart. He turned out to be a hare standing on his back legs, and I've never seen any animal looking quite so human. I wonder if that's where leprechaun sightings came from.

THIS is the time of year when male pheasants – sometimes called the poor man's peacock – emerge in the greatest glory. They are as stately as an ibis, as richly hued as a bird of paradise and far better behaved than peacocks. We have one peacock in the garden at Chateau Rhodes who comes to the window with his harem of five hens and taps on the pane to be fed. Every human who sees him is bowled over by his iridescent plumage and dramatic scarlet wattles. The mystery is that his rather drab mates seem

totally unimpressed by his display. His most dazzling courtship display is met by their utter indifference. Some weeks from now the chicks will appear. I often wonder how.

PREACHING the benefits of an inquiring mind, Jeremy Corbyn says: "I don't consider myself the world's greatest intellectual but you learnt from everybody, don't close your mind to the thoughts of others." Pity he didn't follow that mantra in his schooldays. Corbyn was a privileged pupil but despite the benefits of a prep school and grammar school, he achieved only two dismal E-grade passes in his A-levels. Like he says, not the world's greatest intellectual.

AND while we're on it, why this 1950s-style obsession with nationalising the railways and squeezing the banks until the pips squeak? Half the population hardly ever uses a train and how many of us even know a single investment banker, let alone blame him for our ills? If Really Old Labour wants my vote (and such a thing is not impossible), then get a grip on the dodgiest sector of them all. Nationalise the entire insurance industry with its mega-rich bosses, phony competition, utter contempt for loyal customers and endless payouts to 'whiplash victims' who are no such thing. Dozens of firms are selling identical policies with premiums vastly inflated to cover the cost of celebrity advertising and stuffed toys. Sweep it all away, create the British Insurance Authority, eliminate the industrial-scale corruption and give us proper insurance, for the people, by the people. Or is that too radical, Jez?

AS I'm on holiday this week, I'd be grateful if you would hold those emails for a few days. Especially you three-a-day correspondents. You know who you are.

TALKING POINT



I'm voting green, in the garden of course

GRIPPED by election fever? Thought not. I haven't been either.

Until, that is, I had 'visitors' the other evening and I suddenly had a rather good idea.

Why don't we, the electorate, offer up our own manifesto in place of all the waffle the political parties are inflicting on us? Let me explain.

There I was, out in the back garden, doing a bit of early evening weeding when . . . Ding-Dong.

Off come the gardening gloves and dusty old boots, and off I go to see who's at the door.

Trouble is, by the time I've traipsed through the house, all I can see is a group of them disappearing round the corner before I can even get to the front door.

They being half a dozen 'political' types who are obviously calling at as many homes as they can, simply to find out who the occupants intend to vote for. And how did I know they were canvassing for votes? Because two, yes two, party leaflets were on the mat in the porch. Such an impersonal calling card, I'm sure you'll agree.

Incidentally, the environmentally friendly types among you will be pleased to hear that the leaflets went straight in the recycling bin, which by coincidence was being emptied the next day.

So what would I have said if I'd got to the door in time?

They'll never know, but for the benefit of the next lot who come a' knocking, here goes.

Firstly, in case they think I need persuading to get out and vote on June 8, I have used every vote I've had since I turned 18, except for a European election when I could not get back from work in time before the polling station closed (yes, we journalists have the hardest job in the world!).

Second, there is one party I have never voted for and hope I never have to.

Next, there is one party I will vote for as a tactical move.

Then there is the 'default' party I have voted for when I cannot make my mind up about, or have been unimpressed by, any of the others.

Added to all this, there have been times when my choice has been based on, basically, me being vindictive against certain other candidates on the ballot paper.

Finally, there is a party whose principles I endorse but for a million and one reasons can't always find it in me to support.

So, what does my personal manifesto look like? Just one paragraph really.

The party which promises to outlaw cold calling by any political candidates or their representatives, thus leaving me in peace to get on with some gardening, gets my vote.

Now, if that's not a vote winner, I don't know what is.

STEVE PARLETT

SUMMER SALE

UP TO **20% OFF**

- Old Buildings Removed
- Asbestos Disposal
- Base Laying Service
- Free Quotations

CONCRETE GARAGE ROOF REPLACEMENT SERVICE

Wooden Sheds

HUGE RANGE

FULL TONGUE & GROOVE

Prices from	Delivery Only	Delivered & Fitted
6ft x 4ft	£239	£274
7ft x 5ft	£269	£309
8ft x 6ft	£299	£344

Concrete Garages

FREE FITTING

Prices from

Single Garage 16ft x 8ft	£1699
Double Garage 16ft x 16ft	£3299

Summer Houses

FREE FITTING

Prices from

7ft x 5ft	£599
8ft x 6ft	£725
8ft x 8ft	£789

Without Verandah
Without Verandah
Includes Verandah

Log Cabins & Garden Rooms

VIEW ONLINE

Fitting service available

Wall Log 44mm T&G Double Glazed Insulated Options

Huge Range Made To Measure Service Lined & Insulated Options Quality At Competitive Prices

Show site (open 7 days): Tildasley Street, West Bromwich B70 9SJ (Next to Staples)

Visit our website: www.bettabuildings.co.uk

Call us now: 0121 553 4682

We make it **BETTA BUILDINGS**

Avoid using plastic to save the planet

I HAVE heard that TV presenter Simon Reeve has taken a 'no single-use plastic' pledge in June. Reading about this has made me realise just how much plastic has taken over our lives and how often I buy a plastic bottle, drink the contents and discard it.

I am not a litter bug and will always throw the plastic item in a bin, in ideal circumstances in a specific recycling bin. But what if there was less plastic in the first place?

When the charge for plastic carrier bags came into effect, I couldn't believe the negative reaction from some people

who were upset at having to pay 5p. We have become so indoctrinated into our convenient, cheap, throwaway ideology that we forget about the wider world. Fewer carrier bags has resulted in less litter and pollution – win-win for humans and animals alike.

Simon Reeve is taking up the pledge for a good reason – he's backing the Marine Conservation Society, which is asking people to give up single-use plastics for up to a month. Could I join Simon and give up conveniences like ready meals, pre-packed sandwiches and plastic-bottled drinks for a day,

week or month? I don't know. But it would be interesting to try.

According to the society, the amount of plastic litter on our streets, parks, canals, rivers and beaches has risen by 180 per cent in 20 years. Plastic is often found in the stomachs of wildlife which lives in the seas, and can even kill them. Turtles are one example.

There are predictions that there could be more plastic than fish in our seas by 2050. Is that the world we want to leave our grandchildren?

ALAN DAVIS
Darlaston

Ramadan charity in community

IT is now the start of Ramadan, a month of many blessings, where one reflects on their life.

One of the obligations for a Muslim during the month of Ramadan is giving zakat, making charitable donations to the poor and needy. Most Muslims have always sent their zakat to Third World countries, where there is much starvation and donations are needed the most.

Not once did I ever imagine that in my own community that there would be people living in very desperate situations.

The first obligation is to help your closest in need. Many in the borough live in poverty and children go hungry. So, please, this year consider giving your zakat to your local food banks.

I will donate to my local food bank in Brierley Hill and I hope you will all help your local communities too.

Ramadan Mubarak To Everyone.

FATIMA ZARA
Brierley Hill

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at

Estate's woodland walk is in a state

WE don't have much going for us on Russells Hall Estate, what with the rabbit run traffic coming through each day, hundreds of double parked cars from the hospital, numerous traffic calming bumps and the prospect of more traffic with new houses being built near the Spar supermarket.

But we do now have a new woodland walk at the top of Russells Hall Road. I'm sure everyone has noticed the lovely lawns on the left coming down the hill, which had not been cut since last year, are trimmed around the edges and a path has been cut through the trees, leaving all the weeds and leaves about two-feet high in the middle.

This must save Dudley Council at least half an hour a month in wages. I know we are looking for savings but this is a joke.

JOHN CAPEWELL
Dudley

Fury over care hit by the hackers

WOW, what a wake-up call and I'm really hacked off!

How dare lives be put at risk by "hackers"!

What right have these irresponsible people to electronically interfere with the medical care of thousands of people?

Who knows how many people have had cancer treatment delayed, or perhaps, life-saving operations cancelled?

If this hacking is state-sponsored, organised crime or some nerd in a bedroom, the reality is our NHS was brought to its knees.

This is a warning to us all, that the firewalls we have been lured into believing are protecting us, our health, economy, and security, obviously don't work.

So what have we learnt? It seems very little, if we haven't got back-up systems to protect our data, money and lives.

S T VAUGHAN
Birmingham

Plumb Serve

Plumbing & Heating SPECIALISTS

Exchange your Combi Boiler for an Ideal Vogue Boiler with a 10 year warranty and receive the following-

- Free Wireless Thermostat
- Free First Service
- Free Boilermag Filter!!!!

◀ Under Floor Heating

◀ LPG Work

◀ Taps, Toilets, Baths & Waste

◀ Full Bathroom/En Suites Installed

◀ Radiators Fitted/Removed

◀ Cookers & Fires, Installed & Serviced

◀ Boiler & Full Central Heating Systems

◀ Installed and Serviced

◀ Landlord Safety Checks

24hr call out Call us on
01384 621765 / 07513094763

Card payments accepted
Powered by Gas Serve (West Midlands LTD)

Property Serve

For all your Property Needs!
All qualified and experienced tradesmen

➡ Full/Partial Property

➡ Refurbishments

➡ Plastering

➡ Tiling

➡ Bathroom and Kitchens

➡ Loft Ladders/Floor Boarding

➡ Property Alterations

➡ Underfloor Heating

➡ Electricians

➡ Sound Proofing

Fully Insured
All Work Guaranteed

Call now for details on Tax exempt disabled modifications inc. Wet Rooms and Widened Access

01384 621765
07513 094763

24 hour call out powered by
Gas Serve (West Midlands) Ltd
www.gasservewestmidlands.co.uk
Card Payments Accepted

40% OFF
Doors and Draw fronts
Before 30th June 2017

10% OFF
All New Kitchens, Bedrooms, Bathrooms
OFFERS CANNOT BE COMBINED



Quality Kitchen Makeovers Ltd

UNBEATABLE QUALITY AND VALUE FROM THE BESPOKE SPECIALISTS



Don't Settle for Less

- Kitchens ● Bedrooms
- Bathrooms ● Extensions
- Loft Conversions
- Home Offices

From a door or worktop replacement to an extension

What our customers say...

"Wonderful kitchen, I have already recommended you and would not hesitate to recommend QKM to anyone."

"Can't believe the transformation from start to finish, totally professional."

Appliances: Neff, Bosch, Rangemaster, Belling, Hotpoint, Stoves and many more

Franke Sinks 50 Year Guarantee

HOMEOWNERS...

Looking to Sell?

Enhance the prospects of selling your property - stunning results for a minimum outlay

Just Moved In?

Let us help to transform your property into a dream home

Decided to Stay?

Fall in love again with your home - Revamp your kitchen, bedroom or bathroom and allow us to show your home's true potential

Bring us your dream pictures and we will bring them to life



At QKM

We are dedicated to offering our customers the finest service within the home improvement market



THE GUILD
OF MASTER CRAFTSMEN
Membership No A120074

'We have customers who would be more than happy to show you the excellent standard of work'

We are now members of
Checkatrade.com

Where reputation matters

All types of Flooring supplied and Wet Wall Solutions for Bathrooms

Range of Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms to suit all budgets

Did you know 80% of our customers are retired?
60% plus of all our appointments are referrals or existing customers requiring further work.

Find out why we are trusted for yourself

BOOK YOUR NO OBLIGATION QUOTE TODAY ON 01384 232413

Head Office & Showroom

149 Cinder Bank, Netherton, Dudley, DY2 9BL

01299 877718 | 01384 232413 | 0121 550 4821

Open Mon - Fri 9am - 5.30pm, Thursdays 9am - 7pm

Saturdays 10am - 4pm

Customer satisfaction guaranteed.

WE WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



www.qualitykitchenmakeoversltd.co.uk

FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

£13K burglary at cricket club during spate of raids

BURGLARS using high-powered machinery broke in to a cricket club's storage unit, taking £13,000 of ground maintenance equipment – one of three incidents of criminals targeting sports clubs in the area.

Oldswinford and Stourbridge Social Cricket Club was the victim of a 'professional and clearly planned job', say club bosses. The raiders cut off locks to the storage units at one of the club's bases, in Norwood Road in Brierley Hill.

Exhibition is inspired by island and sea

A JOINT exhibition at the Royal Society of Birmingham Artists (RSBA) in Birmingham will showcase the work of two artists this June.

It will run from June 12 to 24 at the RB&A Gallery, just off St Paul's Square, on the edge of the city's Jewellery Quarter and will display work by Jo Ashby and Majella O'Neill Collins.

The title of the exhibition is Two Distant Views and is the third in a series of two-person shows by the two artists who share a love of Sherkin Island, a tiny island off the coast of Ireland. The fourth show will be held on Sherkin Island in August 2017.

Originally from Birmingham and now dividing her time between London and Sherkin Island, Jo Ashby has a long-standing connection with the RB&A and is an elected associate member of the society. She said: "Exhibiting at the RB&A brings my life full circle, as Birmingham is my home town."

Once inside the shed, close to nearby homes backing on to the cricket field, the criminals took three grass mowers, three trimmers and a hover mower. The total cost of the haul is estimated to be £13,000.

The theft, discovered on Friday afternoon, is the latest targeting of a cricket club. Three weeks ago, a storage unit at Swindon Cricket Club's ground in Hinksford Lane, was broken into but nothing taken. Another club, which asked not to be named, was also targeted with equipment stolen.

Broken

Paul Hatton, vice-chairman at Oldswinford and Stourbridge club, which also has a ground in Stourbridge, said: "We have had graffiti in the past, things going missing. But this was something else, it was a professional and clearly planned job."

He said the theft was discovered by the groundsman when he went to use the equipment on Friday, and discovered the locks had been broken.

The club, which has four adult teams and six youth teams, is now to use equipment from its other ground, while depending on Dudley Council to cut its grass.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said the Oldswinford and Stourbridge raid is believed to have happened sometime between 10pm on 10 May and 2.30pm on 12 May.

Visa joy for pastor and his Brazilian wife



Church pastor Robert and Adna Cooper can stay together in the UK

A MARRIED couple forced to live thousands of miles apart due to an immigration battle have won a fresh fight in their bid to stay together for good.

Church pastor Robert and Adna Cooper, who live in Brierley Hill, were torn apart when Brazilian Adna was refused entry to the UK four years ago. The couple had met in Sao Paulo in 1999 and married the following year in Kingswinford but, after returning to Brazil in 2003, Adna was refused a permanent visa.

Then, three years ago, they won a landmark appeal and Adna was granted a temporary visa and the pair were reunited. Now the couple have found out that the application for the visa to be extended has been approved.

Adna, aged 38, who works as a receptionist in Birmingham, has had her visa extended by two-and-a-half years. It is another step towards a permanent visa, which can be applied for in 2019.

The process cost the couple £5,000 and proved so stressful, Robert stepped down from his role as a pastor at the First Renewal Presbyterian Church. The 42-year-old, who is working again as a pastor, at the Waterfront Christian Fellowship in Brierley Hill, said: "We're so relieved and happy we can move on with our lives for another few years."

Adna said: "It feels like your whole life could fall apart, but thankfully I've got a visa again. It is another step, hopefully, in the process of staying here permanently."

£60k bogus cigarettes are seized on M6

POLICE have seized a haul of £60,000 worth of counterfeit cigarettes from a van travelling along the M6 in the Midlands.

A total of 257,600 illegal cigarettes were seized from the back of the van.

It was travelling along the M6 between junctions 15 and 16 on Friday when it was stopped by officers from the Central Motorway Police Group (CMPG).

The van was seized as part of CMPG's Operation Trivium – a nationwide crackdown on overseas crooks.

Tweeting about the incident, @CMPG said: "#optrivium M6 in @StaffsPolice area. 257,600 counterfeit cigarettes seized. Valued by @HMRCgovuk as retailing at around £60,000."

Several

West Midlands Police issued a statement following the find. It said: "Police identified a vehicle carrying what was believed to be several large boxes of counterfeit cigarettes just before 11am this morning (Friday, May 19) on the M6 between junctions 15 and 16."

"Trading Standards were informed and seized what is believed to be in excess of £60k worth of items and will be dealing with the investigation."

Chip shop blaze due to 'electrical fault'

A FIRE that broke out at an Oldbury chip shop is thought to have been caused by an electrical fault.

The fire broke out in the basement of Angelo's on Birmingham Road at around 10.30am on Tuesday.

Fire crews managed to stop the flames from spreading into the main chip shop area.

Workers and people living above managed to get out before firefighters arrived.

StCHRISTOPHER'S
CREATING BRIGHTER
FUTURES

Become a Foster Carer with St Christopher's

Do you always see the best in young people?
So do we - we call it seeing their inner diamond

A person's diamond represents their individual talents, skills and value. Everybody has one, but sometimes it might need a bit of polish to shine.

That's where foster carers step in. With the right person taking care of them, young people can thrive and reach their full potential. They start to believe in themselves and recognise their worth.

We're a charity that has developed our way of working with young people since 1870, and we pass this knowledge onto all of our foster carers through our comprehensive training.

Choose an agency with experience and expertise. Chat with St Christopher's today.

0800 234 6282
www.stchris.org.uk/fostering
fostering@stchris.org.uk

Caring for children and young people since 1870

ABBYDIRECT
TIMBER SUPPLIES

Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm Sat 8.30am - 1pm
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC & TRADE

4.8 metre length
Decking Boards
Only £8 each
(Saving £3 on each board)

Skirtings • Architraves Planed Timbers
Sawn Timbers • Sheet Materials
Fencing Panels • Garden Gates
Decking Etc

Tel: 01384 456201
Mob: 07967 588161

C&T
Doors & Windows Ltd

Tel: 01902 842706 / 07759 536818
www.candtdoorsandwindows.co.uk
ALL AREAS COVERED
Email: enquiries@candtdoorsandwindows.co.uk

DOORS

COMPOSITE DOORS AVAILABLE

Unglazed/Glazed from £349.00 fully fitted. New Improved 10 point locking system fully reinforced. Many more designs available.

EDWARDIAN CONSERVATORY
3 MTR x 3 MTR
From £4500

Bi-Fold Doors
From £999

French Patio Doors
From £649

Specialists in Authentic Vegetarian & Non Vegetarian Dishes

1 kilo Vegetable Pakora £5
Sheesh Kebab 50p
100 Samosas for £20
Curries from £3
Vegetable Samosa 25p
Meat Samosa 50p
Spring roll 30p

287 Bearwood Road, Smethwick B66 4DR

0121 429 9998
info@chandigarhcatering.com
www.chandigarhcatering.com

Open times
9am - 8pm Monday-Sunday

CATERING SERVICES
for all functions large or small

HIMLEY Fencing

Prices start from £60 a bay
Includes:

- Heavy duty fence panel
- Gravel board and Concrete post
- Fully insured
- 3 year warranty

Shed re-felts given

Free no obligation quotes
07871 793 677
01384 863284

10% off for OAPS

Halesowen Fireplaces
AT THE HEART OF YOUR HOME

Complete Fireplace Packages from £499
(including fire)

STORAGE HEATERS NOW IN STOCK

For a range of Gas and Electric Fires and Surrounds visit our showroom (opposite Tyre City on Long Lane)

Telephone 0121 559 9985

Unit 14, Long Lane Trading Estate,
Long Lane, Halesowen B62 9LD
www.halesowenfireplaces.co.uk

Pet Health Club
www.thepethealthclub.co.uk

Have you heard about our Pet Health Club for dogs, cats & rabbits?

Save money with a monthly discounted scheme covering:

- ✓ Routine Vaccinations
- ✓ Kennel Cough
- ✓ Worm & Flea Treatments
- ✓ Healthchecks
- ✓ Microchipping
- ✓ Cost Price Food

From £7.80 a month

Plus discounts on neutering, dentistry, medicine and much more...

See leaflet for terms & conditions.

Bearwood Veterinary Clinic
1-2 Lightwoods Road, Bearwood, Birmingham, West Midlands B67 6AY
Call today 0121 429 1400 www.bearwoodvets.co.uk

Inquest hears of father's 999 call after stabbings

A FATHER whose wife and son were killed at their home phoned 999 to say that he too had been stabbed, an inquest was told.

Tracey Wilkinson, aged 50, and Pierce Wilkinson, 13, both died of multiple stab wounds on March 30, following the attack at their home in Greyhound Lane, Stourbridge.

Their husband and father Peter Wilkinson, aged 47, also suffered life-threatening injuries in the incident but survived.

Aaron Barley, aged 23, of no fixed address, has admitted attempted murder of Mr Wilkinson, but has not entered a plea on two counts of murder.

Last week Black Country Coroner Zafar Siddique opened the inquests on Tracey and Pierce, but adjourned it until the criminal case had concluded.

Coroner's officer Joanne Stokes said: "The circumstances were that on March 30 a call was received by police from Peter Wilkinson stating he had been stabbed at home.

Critical

"On arrival Peter was found in the garden and his wife and son were found in the house.

"Peter was taken to hospital in a critical condition and has now been released. Unfortunately Tracey was pronounced deceased and Pierce was pronounced deceased at Birmingham Children's Hospital on March 30. The cause of death for Tracey Wilkinson was multiple stab wounds and for Pierce it is multiple stab wounds."

Detective Chief Inspector Ed Foster also spoke at the hearing to provide an update on Barley's case saying he would next appear at Birmingham Crown Court on July 19.

Mr Wilkinson and his daughter



Pierce Wilkinson, aged 13, died



Tracey Wilkinson was found dead



Flowers at the scene of the tragedy
Lydia Wilkinson, aged 18, were not present at the hearing, which lasted less than 20 minutes.



Peter Wilkinson suffered serious injuries
criminal trial. "I have heard a further hearing is taking place in July so I will formally suspend the hearing until after then.

Coroner Mr Siddique said: "In light of the circumstances and the tragic deaths of Pierce and Tracey Wilkinson I am going to formally suspend the inquest pending the outcome of the

"May I take this opportunity to offer my sincere and deepest condolences for the family's loss in these tragic circumstances."

HagleyKitchens

Beautiful Kitchens, Bathrooms and Bedrooms, designed with imagination and fitted with care



"A really handsome Kitchen..."

...beautiful Bosch appliances and a super 'Boiling-water Tap' completed on time without any problems at all" **Pauline Burgess, Droitwich**

"Hagley Kitchens took care of everything in our fantastically designed modern kitchen..."

...Graham and his team made everything simple." **Pam & Steve Hughes, Rowley Regis**

"Graham gave us our perfect kitchen, a great local company." **Danni & Martin Walters, Hasbury**

"Hagley Kitchens created the kitchen we have always dreamed of, and his team completed the installation and tiling to a perfect finish... Thank You." **Wayne & Julie, Wordsley**

"Nothing was too much trouble" **Doreen Coley - Hayley Green**

Call Graham Edmonds for your 'FREE', no obligation new Hagley Kitchen's design
07776 207596
or **0121 602 3031**



Guaranteed unbeatable on price

www.HagleyKitchens.co.uk

INSTALLATION • TILING • GAS • ELECTRIC • PLUMBING • BUILDING

HASBURY WINDOWS Ltd.

QUALITY | VALUE | SERVICE



- Your NEW windows will sparkle this Spring
- It's the Best Time of Year to Fit New Windows!

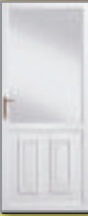
INLITEN FRONT DOOR

in WHITE
From Only
£550
...Including fitting!



INLITEN BACK DOOR

in WHITE
From Only
£490
...Including fitting!



6 FLAT WINDOWS & 2 DOORS

From Only
£2999
...Including fitting AND VAT!

Full Window Wizard Services Available



- Misted Units Replaced
- Broken Hinges
- Door Adjustment
- New Locks Installed

Call for further details
0121 421 7001



- Your local well established business offering top quality products and service
- No payment until completion
- Call us now for a great deal on your new windows and doors
- Visit our showroom
- Deal direct with the owner

It **HAS** to be **HASBURY**



HASBURY WINDOWS Ltd.

QUALITY | VALUE | SERVICE

SHOWROOM OPEN:
Mon-Fri 8.00am - 5.00pm
Sat - 10.00am - 1.00pm
PHONELINES OPEN: 9.00am - 9.00pm

9 Halesowen Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 9AA
Telephone: **0121 421 7001 • 0121 421 2104**

TRADE ENQUIRES WELCOME

FENSA
Registered 30179

"We will Beat ANY Genuine Written Quote"



Bungling brothers jailed after stealing half a £5 note

TWO bungling brothers from Tividale escaped with just half a torn five pound note from the till when they raided a Black Country filling station, a judge heard.

A quick thinking assistant seized the fiver too and the crooks lost a tug of war over the note, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. But the robbery still cost half-brothers Gareth Donnelly and Barry Millward dear when they were jailed for a total of five and a half years.

Cone is JAM packed with holiday fun

YOUNGSTERS can enjoy a range of activities and crafts with the Juniors at Museums (JAM) club at the Red House Glass Cone during the Whit Week holiday.

A free gnomes and fairies trail, where children can hunt for characters around the site, will be available every day from Saturday, May 27, to Sunday, June 3.

There are two bookable glass fusion sessions where families with children aged five and over can make their very own magical designs in glass for collection at a later date. These include glass gnomes on Tuesday and fairy toadstools on Thursday. Sessions at 10.30am, 11.30am, 1pm and 2pm.

There's also a fairy and gnome school on Wednesday where youngsters can take part in a range of crafts from 10am to 3pm. There's a chance to make a gift for dad at a glass fusing session on Saturday, June 3, from 11.30am. Visit www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums for information.

Staff were suspicious when the duo walked into Apple Green Services, also known as Tamebridge Services, in Bridge Street, Wednesbury on September 9, said Mr Christopher O'Gorman, prosecuting.

Donnelly proffered a £1 coin as payment for some confectionary. As soon as the till was opened, the 35-year-old made a lunge for the cash.

Mr O'Gorman continued: "As he made a grab for the money the female assistant instinctively pushed it further into the till."

Can

Then a customer who had just left the store noticed the disturbance and returned to throw a drinks can at Millward, 36, hitting him on the head. The thieves then fled.

Both men had a long list of previous convictions. Millward's included robbery, burglary, blackmail, theft and assault.

Mr Zaheer Afzal, defending, explained that the father-of-four had been blighted by Class A drug addiction for years.

Donnelly, of Dale Terrace, and Millward, of Trafalgar Court, Birmingham New Road, Tividale, both admitted robbery and were each jailed for two and half years. Millward also received a consecutive six month sentence for breaking the terms of his bail.

Museum in race to save showroom



The former gas showroom in West Bromwich faces demolition unless it is saved by the museum

THE battle to save an historic building is continuing despite a date being earmarked for demolition.

The Black Country Living Museum is keen to save a 1940s gas showroom in West Bromwich but Sandwell Council says it may be demolished this autumn to make way for homes. The showroom has been vacant for more than 20 years.

A report to Sandwell Council says: "In recent years masonry has been falling off the property and measures have had to be taken."

"The proposed demolition is complex due to asbestos being disturbed within the property and services to the adjacent former magistrates court run through the property."

"A planning brief has been prepared for the site and it is proposed to market the site for a residential-led mixed use development."

Museum bosses want to take the showroom down brick-by-brick and rebuild it at the Dudley attraction as part of a £21 million project to create a 1940s to '60s town.

The premises located on the corner of Lombard Street West and High Street, were part of the West Bromwich Corporation Gas Department and became the headquarters for local supporters of the miners' strike in 1984.

The building's original frontage was destroyed in a Second World War air raid. It's connection to significant historical moments in the region, and surviving period details inside the building, have sparked the museum's interest. The museum and council are looking to reach an agreement.

A restored 'little ship' sails again

A DUNKIRK 'little ship' which fell on hard times has completed her first voyage since restoration.

The Anne, which took part in the famous evacuation of Allied soldiers from France in 1940, sailed down the Thames from Shepperton to a new berth at Windsor with family and friends aboard.

"It went terribly well," said Mrs Annie Gabb, who lives near Bridgnorth, and was named after the 30ft pleasure cruiser which had belonged to her grandfather, PJ Darby, who lived at Hagley, near Stourbridge.

"We had a few little snags to be sorted out and got away from Shepperton at about 2.30pm, filled up with diesel, and got to Windsor at 8 o'clock. We have all sorts of exciting things lined up. There's Henley regatta, where the little ships will be, and we plan to take her to Dunkirk for the 80th anniversary of the evacuation."

Her grandfather's boat was moored at Tenby before the war, when the family had a house on the Welsh coast. At the time of the Dunkirk evacuation the Anne was requisitioned, crossing the Channel to help rescue stranded soldiers. The boats were attacked and the Anne returned with bullet holes.

Two years ago Mrs Gabb tracked down the Anne and had it restored. "It's been absolutely worth every penny," she added.

Pirate adventures at city's Sea Life Centre

CALLING all buccaneers and swash-bucklers, an exciting treasure hunt awaits ye at The National Sea Life Centre during the attraction's pirate week this half term.

There's treasure a-plenty to be had after a pesky pirate crew got distracted at the aquarium and forgot to guard their gold properly.

For further information, or to pre-book tickets go to www.sealife.co.uk/birmingham

ADVERTISEMENT

SPRINKLES GELATO PERFECT PLACE TO COOL DOWN IN THE SUMMER



Shoppers will be able to cool off in style this summer, at the celebrated dessert parlour Sprinkles Gelato at New Square Shopping Centre.

The store offers delectable range of 44+ flavours of traditional Italian gelato, including Eton Mess, Raspberry Peanut Crunch and Blue Banana. As well as a taste-bud tempting selection of waffles, shakes, crepes, sundaes and firm favorites Cookie Dough. It's also known for its wide range of vegan friendly dairy free sorbet range which features

flavours including Forest Fruits, Mango, Pineapple, Watermelon and Red Orange.

You can also cool down with a range of milkshakes and cold drinks and if the weather turns cold don't worry they also do hot drinks.

Sprinkles Gelato is a family owned business that opened its first store in Portswood, Southampton in September 2012 and since then has grown to 15 stores. Its celebrated gelato is made to traditional Italian recipes at its Southampton headquarters. In addition to



the New Square store the business has other outlets in Southampton, Portsmouth, Bournemouth, Winton, London, Brighton, Coventry, Poole and Basildon.

Ibrahim Ahmed, Operational Director at Sprinkles Gelato adds "We are delighted with the customer base we have attracted in Westbromwich since we opened our doors in March but we want to reach out to the wider Westbromwich and surrounding areas, so come along for a treat at our dessert parlour".



GELATO EXTRAORDINAIRE

Experience the Extraordinary!



Handmade Gelato • Crêpes • Waffles • Shakes • Cookie Dough • Coffee

Sprinkles Gelato West Bromwich
11 New Square Shopping Centre,
Cronehills Linkway, West Bromwich, B70 7PP

STORES NATIONWIDE
sprinklesgelato.co.uk

Hugh leads the way in charity cycle challenge

THEY came, they saw, they conquered – hundreds of cyclists took on the hills of Shropshire, all in the name of charity.

More than 700 entrants for the second Round the Wrekin sportive, set to raise thousands of pounds for Wolverhampton's Compton Hospice.

Cyclists took part in one of three challenges – the epic 100 mile route, the standard 64 mile route and the short, 24 mile course, named the Hugh Porter route.

Cycling legend Hugh, who took part in the 24 miles route, said he was delighted with the turnout and stayed throughout the day to give medals to those taking part.

He added: "It's great to beat last year's target, for such a good cause. I'm just happy to be involved. Somewhere in life most families get touched with cancer – I lost my sister and I lost my uncle in the hospice, so there's a certain amount of poignancy there to be involved."

"I rode with a group of club mates and people I've ridden with over the years, some people I go way back to school with. There's a nice comradery with cyclists, it's been a great day."

With riders aged from 10 to 85, cyclists made trips from as far Northern Ireland to take part. Some dusted off tandems and one woman – Karen Flavell, 53, from Wombourne – took on the race after undergoing a heart transplant just three years ago. She said: "Three years ago almost to do the day I had my heart transplant. I had cardiomyopathy all my life, but things started deteriorating ten years ago – it got to the point where I needed a new one. It's great now I can do anything."



Hugh Porter leads the charity cycling event, which set off from Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club

Jobless figures are up across borough

THE number of people claiming unemployment benefits in the Dudley borough rose last month.

It came after the unemployment total in the West Midlands fell by 5,000 to 161,000 in the three months to March.

Nationally the unemployment rate fell to a 42-year low with a record number of people in work, Office for National Statistics figures show.

Those claiming in Dudley, including Jobseeker's Allowance and Universal Credit, were up 45 on March to 5,925 – 3.1 per cent of the working population.

Councillor David Sparks, Dudley Council's cabinet member for finance, said: "There's no particular reason why there should be such a small movement in the statistics. The fundamental problem for Dudley and the rest of the Black Country isn't how many people are in work, but what skills they have and are able to obtain in order to stay in employment or gain other jobs."

South Staffordshire also saw a rise of 20 to 790 (1.2 per cent) and Wyre Forest, including Kidderminster, was up five to 835 (1.4 per cent).

Judge says tax cheat builder was 'greedy'

A 'GREEDY' builder from Stourbridge who fiddled his expenses in a bid to cut his tax bill by more than £30,000 has been jailed for 18 months.

Adam Turner started the ruse after reckoning he had been short changed by an employer, a judge heard at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The 45-year-old family man had allegedly been promised additional expenses on top of his wages but ended up with less money being paid into his bank account than he had expected, so he decided to make up the difference with bogus tax deductible expense claims, the court was told.

He continued the racket when the supposed short fall had been recouped and illegally claimed a total of £31,405 in eight months before a tax inspector found out, said Mr James Bruce, prosecuting.

The Inland Revenue managed to put a stop on £9,554 of the requested refunds meaning that Turner still walked away with £21,851 he was not entitled to.

By John Scott

Mr Hanns said: "It started because he was being cut short by his employer but accepts that what he did after that was unacceptable and is thoroughly ashamed."

Turner, of Riversleigh Drive, Stourbridge, admitted 10 charges of tax evasion between October 3, 2011, and April 12, 2012.

He was sent to prison by Judge Barry Berlin who told him: "This was greedy, cynical and persistent offending."

"There was no need for it. People get desperate and do not thief in this way. You got the taste for easy money."

"You invented vastly inflated expenses, which had never been incurred, to claim money back from the Inland Revenue. The claims did not come from anywhere other than your imagination."

"This was a serious matter and the general public rightly expect anybody who defrauds the Revenue to have an immediate custodial term. It is important that this message goes out because people who do this are stealing from all of us."

Recover

The Inland Revenue will now have to take civil action to recover the money.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said: "He has changed his working practices considerably since this happened. He became self employed during the period of the offence."

"His own business is now controlled entirely by his accountant. It is highly unlikely that he will ever come before a court again."

Chance to join the cast of Dolly musical

A THEATRE group is preparing to stage its new show later this year and there's a chance to join the cast.

Cradley Heath Amateur Operatic Society, known as CHAOS, will be performing Dolly Parton's 9 to 5 – The Musical this November. The group is looking for fresh talent, mainly male performers and dancers, to take part.

Group spokesman, Paul Murdock, said: "New members will be welcomed into the 'family' of the longest established amateur operatic society in the Black Country and whilst we rehearse regularly in the Old Hill area, we also hold social events such as quiz and race nights as well as the annual trip to London and dinner dance. We like to support local actors, singers and dancers."

The musical will be the group's first show in its new home venue, Stourbridge Town Hall. Email the group on chaos@chaosoperatics.co.uk or call (01384) 293913.

Buy today - pay nothing until next year - no deposit - interest free!

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY OFFERS

At Cousins this Bank Holiday everything's reduced. You'll find great offers throughout all departments, sofas, dining and bedroom furniture, carpets, beds and homewares, including all the famous brands.

SAVE £550

£1149

GRACIE 4 SEATER PILLOW BACK SOFA (INCLUDES CUSHIONS)

Normal £1699.95

HALF PRICE

£749

JOANNA MARBLE DINING TABLE AND 4 CHAIRS

Normal £1499

REST ASSURED

£449

REST ASSURED MEMORY 800 DOUBLE POCKETED PLATFORM TOP DRAWER DIVAN

Normal £649 | SAVE £200

0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

Deferred Interest Free Credit available on all orders over £500. Subject to status. All balances must be paid in January 2018 on the date specified at the time of purchase. Written details on request. Offer not available on clearance items or in store concessions. Some items are subject to one per household and only available in limited colours, or the colours shown in this advert. Prices in this advert are valid until 04.06.17. See website for Price Promise details.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Late Nights: Tuesday & Thursday until 8pm

Bank Holiday Monday 10am - 6pm

<p>Birmingham</p> <p>Warwick Road, Tyseley. B11 2EW.</p> <p>T: 0121 765 3300</p>	<p>Dudley</p> <p>Hall Street DY2 8NW.</p> <p>T: 01384 451500</p>	<p>Manchester</p> <p>A57, Regent Rd, Salford. M5 4EA.</p> <p>T: 0161 875 4070</p>
---	---	--

www.cousinsfurniture.co.uk

PRICE PROMISE

Our price promise to you, we won't be beaten on price! *

- Free parking
- Instore restaurant
- Large stocks
- Immediate delivery



An atmospheric image of Monmore Green Stadium



Wolverhampton Wolves rider Jacob Thorssell in action



Queen of Speedway Fay Taylour featured in the photography exhibition

Photographer on track to share love of speedway at exhibition

A KEEN motorsport photographer showcased snaps of the rip-roaring world of speedway – and said he hoped the display would get more people into the sport.

Jon George, and his friends, exhibited around 100 pictures at Wolverhampton Central Library.

The stunning images ranged from riders in the heat of the action at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green Stadium, to historic black and white photographs taken at the Haynes International Motor Museum, in Somerset.

Jon, chairman of the Compton G Camera based at Tettenhall Wood Institute, hopes the display has inspired people to take an interest in the sport.

The exhibition comes after the camera club was granted rare access to capture the racing in action up close and personal at Monmore Green, home to the Parrys International Wolves and Elite League winners

MEMORY LANE

By Jamie Brassington

last season. Current riders, including Jacob Thorssell, featured in the display.

Promoter Chris Van Straaten gave the photographers an unobstructed view from the centre of the track in March.

Jon also added historic photographs which he took at the motor museum. The snaps include two female riders, Fay Taylour 'the Queen of Speedway' and Eva Asquith, who were both big names in the sport in the 1920s.

In addition, Jon threw in atmospheric pictures from Monmore Green, capturing behind the scenes of the racing action.

The 68-year-old, from Merry Hill in Wolverhampton, said: "We decided to focus the exhibition on the speedway because several of our members like the sport."

"I hope it would encourage people to take an interest in speedway."

"The majority of the photographs were

what we had taken this year but it was also interesting to focus on the history of the speedway."

One black and white image captures Fay and Eva shaking hands as they sit on their respective motorbikes side by side, while what appears to be race organisers stand behind the two female riders.

Flying

Another old photograph shows Fay sitting astride a speedway motorcycle inside of a building or stadium. The photograph taken from the side, shows the Irish rider, known as 'Flying Fay' wearing a long coat with a fur collar.

Taylour was regarded as the best female rider of her day.

Jon said he believed Fay held the track record at Crystal Palace and beat a lot of male riders. But in the 1930s women were banned from speedway because it could be awkward for medics to remove clothing if they had an accident, Jon said.

"It wasn't until the 1990s women were

allowed to compete again in speedway," he said. During his visit to the museum, Jon had a surprise encounter with a former world champion rider whose career spanned the 1950s to the 70s.

"I was taking photographs there and someone tapped me on the back," said Jon. "It was Barry Briggs, he is like the Stanley Matthews of speedway. There are display boards there at the museum about him."

Jon, originally from Somerset, used to see grass-track races while he lived down south, which is a similar type of motorbike racing to speedway.

But it wasn't until he moved to Wolverhampton in 1969 that he got his first glimpse of the sport, during the era of world champion 'Great Dane' Ole Olsen, who raced for Wolverhampton Wolves between 1970 and 75.

Ole also features in the exhibition. On one image, he can be seen in pack of riders who are racing at Wembley, in 1976, in the Intercontinental Final and is joined by Ivan Mauger and Doug Wyer.



The 1976 Intercontinental Final at Wembley



The Queen of Speedway Fay Taylour and Eva Asquith

Value for Money at
Bowjangles **GUARANTEED**

WANTED

YOUR GOLD!!!

It's a great time to sell, gold prices at high levels

9ct £10.45 per gram

22ct £26.03 per gram

Full Sovereign £217

We pay up to £12 for resellable 9ct gold

All carats bought 9/14/18/22/24

Sovereign/Coins/Silver/Platinum

/Palladium/Asian Gold

BEST RATES ON FOREIGN CURRENCY



Euros £1 = 1.131

US Dollars £1 = 1.258

Most currencies available
Pay no commission and
only 2 days to order

Huge selection of new and second hand jewellery

- Second hand 9ct gold from £14 per gram
- Large selection of diamond jewellery
- Made to order engagement rings
- Antique/Vintage jewellery

Watches

- Rolex
- Omega
- Tag Heuer
- Cartier
- Vintage Watches

Jewellery Repairs

- Start from as little as £20
- Solders
- Diamond Setting
- Diamond replacement
- Rhodium/DIP

GUARANTEED

Wednesbury (M6 J9)
15 Market Place, Wednesbury WS10 7AY
Tel: 0121 556 6868

Find us on Facebook at BowjanglesJewellery
www.jewellersmidlands.co.uk

Terms & Conditions
Apply. Prices correct
23/5/17



StarReaderTravel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Return coach travel from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge*

Your Chronicle

in association with

Omega
The Travel Association

WINDSOR CASTLE

& London



Departing Saturday 23 September 2017

Price Includes...

Quote Code: WVP056

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
- ✓ Admission ticket (value £20.50*) to Windsor Castle on Saturday
- ✓ Free time in London

*Based on 2017 adult admission prices.

2 days, by coach
only **£139**.95pp

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/WVP056

Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

HAMPTON COURT

Flower Show and Windsor



Departing Saturday 8 July 2017

Price Includes...

Quote Code: KJG763

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
- ✓ Admission and return coach transfer to RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show on Sunday (upgrade +£20pp for Palace admission)
- ✓ Free time in Windsor

2 days, by coach
only **£149**.95pp

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/KJG763

Single room supplement £30pp. Subject to availability.

*Please note: Not all pick up points are available on all breaks.

For more information or to book, please call:

01902 902165



Organised by Omega Holidays plc,
ABTA V4782.

OPENING TIMES:
MON-FRI 8.30-19.00
SAT 8.30-16.00
SUN 10.00-16.00



Couple fully deserve their jail sentences, say senior judges

A COUPLE jailed over a fraud which ruined the big day for hundreds of brides have been told by top judges they deserved to be locked up.

Bake A Cake Catering boss Lisa Holt, aged 41, conned brides-to-be out of thousands of pounds by cheating customers out of cash for cakes and other wedding services which never materialised.

Between May 2014 and August 2015 her Halesowen-based firm had more than 700 victims. Some brides had to cancel their weddings.

Most customers booked their services for weddings but others were for birthdays and also a funeral.

Mrs Holt's fraud totalled £104,000 – almost half of which was via the online site Wowcher, through which she 'sold' services including a chocolate fountain and photobooths. Wowcher had to compensate customers to the tune of £46,000. Her husband, Ryan Holt, 42, helped her launder the

money. The pair, of Albert Road, Halesowen, were jailed at Wolverhampton Crown Court in January, with Mrs Holt receiving three years and her husband nine months. She admitted three counts of fraud, while he admitted converting criminal property.

The couple tried to have their sentences cut, with their lawyers arguing the judge didn't take enough account of the fact the sentences would deprive the couple's children of their parents. But both appeals were rejected.

Dismissing Mr Holt's case, Mr Justice Green said: "The judge reduced his sentence substantially to take account of the position of the children. But it is evident there is no absolute duty upon a court to suspend a sentence, simply because children are involved."

Sitting with Lady Justice Thirlwall and Judge Simon Bourne-Arton QC, he also rejected Mrs Holt's appeal, saying she had shown no sympathy for the hundreds of victims.



Crooks Lisa and Ryan Holt, who claimed prison sentences deprived their children of their parents

Tip closure less likely

CONTROVERSIAL plans to close Stourbridge tip could now be scrapped following a change in leadership at Dudley Council.

Conservative councillors raised concerns about the plan when it was put forward by Labour. Now new Tory council leader Patrick Harley said the proposals would be reviewed and, if found not to be suitable, scrapped.

Waste operations were to be shifted to Brierley Hill under the plans, sparking concerns over traffic clogging up surrounding roads.

The change in control at the council has now thrown the plans up in the air.

Councillor Harley said: "We will have a traffic impact assessment and liaise with ward councillors in Brockmoor, Wordsley and Brierley Hill. If it is not suitable we will put a stop to it."

Family's tribute to father killed in accident

TRIBUTE has been paid to a father-of-four who died when his car overturned in a crash in Kingswinford.

James O'Brien, known as Jimmy, has been remembered as a 'loving husband and father' by his family as an investigation continues into the fatal accident.

His car rolled onto its roof in the incident which happened at the junction of Ham Lane and Stallings Lane on Monday evening, May 15.

A woman, thought to be aged in her 20s, stopped in a bid to help Mr O'Brien after the crash at around 6.25pm. The 28-year-old was treated by members of the emergency services, including the air ambulance, but was pronounced dead at the scene.

Two fire crews from Brierley Hill also attended.

In a statement his family said: "Jimmy was very much loved by all that knew him.



James O'Brien - died in crash

Caring

"He was a loving husband and father, a caring son and an amazing brother and uncle. He will be so deeply missed by all that knew him."

Detective Sergeant Paul Hughes, from West Midlands Police's Regional Collision Investigation Unit said: "This is a tragic set of circumstances for all involved.

"James' family continue to be supported by our dedicated family liaison team."

Det Sgt Hughes added: "I would like to appeal to anyone who may have witnessed the collision and has not yet been in touch with police to contact either myself or my team to help us piece together the circumstances."

Anyone with information about the accident is asked to call the Regional Collision Investigation Team on 101.

'Uncertainty' at market sees traders protest

A NEW management team is being brought in to run Dudley Market – sparking anger among traders who say they have been kept in the dark about what it will mean for them.

Dudley Council announced Tudor Markets has been chosen after submitting a 'strong and ambitious bid'. But traders insisted they were not given a say over the agreement and raised concerns, saying they fear a rents hike. Around a dozen stallholders gathered outside Dudley Council House on Thursday night to protes.

Council bosses said it has challenged companies to show they could 'drive forward' the market and bring more footfall. Tudor will take over at the start of July. Market manager Len Lenihan said: "Any business needs to have a level of certainty. There will be nothing but uncertainty until July 1."

Dudley Council strategic director Alan Lunt said: "It was essential that we picked the strongest team to build on the work and investment delivered by Dudley Council. We are excited to be working with Tudor Markets whose application really stood out against some very good local competition." James Willis, director of Tudor Markets, said: "We will look to meet with the traders as soon as possible."

FOR THE **SPRING BANK HOLIDAY**

EXTRA

discount

off our already low **SALE PRICES**

sale

BUY THIS BANK HOLIDAY for **EXTRA** discount throughout the whole store... plus leave a **low deposit & pay nothing** until **2018...** that's **no interest ever!**

This **BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND** everything is reduced throughout our **35,000 sq.ft. superstore!**

There's special **introductory offers & extra discount.**

It's simply a great time to buy this Spring Bank Holiday Weekend!

PRICE MATCH PROMISE

We'll not be beaten on price! That's our promise to you!

WILLIAM&SONS

"What ever your budget or style... we've got the furniture to suit!"

Level Street | Merry Hill | Dudley | West Midlands | DY5 1UA | T. 01384 77444 | www.williamandsons.co.uk

BANK HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS: Friday 10-5.30pm, Saturday 10-6pm, Sunday 11-5pm, Bank Holiday Monday 10-6pm

Alstons Baker bardj BUOYANT Harrison HTL KROSTOWN Leobias MYER'S rauch

9% APR Representative *Deferred interest free credit offer available on balances over £400. Representative Example: Cash Price £900, Deposit £150, Total Amount of Credit £450, Duration of the Agreement 18 months, 12 x Monthly Repayments of £37.50 starting 6 months after delivery or activation. Annual Rate of Interest 0%, Representative APR 0%, Total Amount Payable £900. Written details available on request. Credit is subject to status. Terms & Conditions apply. Price Match Promise Terms & Conditions apply. Ask in store or see our website for further details. All offers subject to availability E&OE

An Evening with Boycott & Aggers, Wolverhampton Grand

HE may be forthright and opinionated, but Geoffrey Boycott talks a lot of sense when it comes to cricket, particularly the current state of the game.

The Yorkshire and England legend was in Wolverhampton as part of a tour to mark the 40th anniversary of one of his greatest achievements.

scoring his 100th first class century. There were a few surprise video moments thrown in too, as well as other archive footage, while Test Match Special colleague Jonathan Agnew, having climbed off his sick bed, kept proceedings going.

'Aggers' asked the questions in the first half before reading out those posed by the 700-strong audience after

the interval. Boycott, 15 years on from being given three months to live, has proven as stoic as he ever did at the crease.

He even brought on a stick of rhubarb as a prop, and demonstrated how to play a forward defensive with it.

It wasn't one of Boycott's longest innings, but it was one of his most entertaining.

Mark Shipp

REVIEWS

It's Rich pickings from USA

**Rich Hall, Stourbridge
Town Hall**

THE grizzled grump from Montana came to the not-so-Wild West Midlands to mine for comedy gold the cultural chasm between the UK and the USA.

Hall benefits from a face that looks like it's been left out in the desert, a hound dog expression to match his downbeat humour. But a smile plays at the edge of his mouth as he questions the Stourbridge audience searching for a trucker or any kind of blue collar worker but comes up with an accountant, IT consultant and a business analyst.

He knows England well and has a Liverpudlian wife. In the gag-slinging first half he looks at the differences between the two countries, such as the enormous portion sizes of American meals, the wallet-emptying health 'care' system and, of course, Trump.

In the second hour he brings on his musical compadres for the Hoedown where he sings comic country songs. The one about Bob Dylan's disappointing concerts was a treat - 'as he murdered Maggie's Farm, it set off my car alarm'. **LB**



Josh Widdecombe, Tim Key, Tom Parry and Romesh Ranganathan

Inimitable compere and big name acts play it for laughs

**Hilarity Charity Gala,
Wolverhampton Grand**

A HOST of big names took to the stage for this comedy fest in aid of Wolverhampton's Central Youth Theatre – and boy what a laugh we all had.

Now in its fourth year, the entertaining Daniel Kitson has become a fixture as compere. This year, Kitson was able to introduce Alun Cochrane, Josh Widdecombe – for second time at the gala – Suzi Ruffell, Tim Key and Romesh Ranganathan.

The auditorium was packed with more than 900 theatregoers and we had an ideal

view from our seat in the box, although I did fear we would be 'picked on'. Instead, Kitson turned his attentions to others.

Cochrane, who described his material as environmentally friendly – he likes to ‘reuse, reduce and recycle’ his comedy, was just getting into his stride before his time was up, but Widdecombe and Ruffell in particular ensured an excellent first half.

After Key's unorthodox set, the brilliant Ranganathan, performing as a favour to his friend, Wolverhampton's Tom Parry, of Pappy's, who helped to organise the show, made sure everyone went home happy. **MS**



Julian Capolei, William Grint and Matthew Jacobs-Morgan in Tommy at Birmingham Rep

Tommy – hear this, feel this potent show

by Leon Burakowski

Tommy, Birmingham Rep

SEE me, feel me, touch me, heal me – the haunting refrain returns again and again in this powerful and poignant version of The Who's rock opera Tommy.

First created by Pete Townsend as a concept album in 1969, revamped as a flamboyant movie by Ken Russell in '75, it now makes a rare sortie to the stage in this delirious, soulfully sung production with theatre company Ramps on the Moon.

Ramps are an inclusive company of deaf, disabled and non-disabled actors and musicians, and this is their strength as they bring innovation to the story about a 'deaf, dumb and blind kid', staged on a stark metallic set. Sign language is weaved into movement and dance as the woefully abused Tommy retreats into his own world after the murder of his RAF airman father – until becoming a Pinball Wizard, a messiah figure for the counter-culture.

The singing is stunning. Natasha Lewis (in various roles) and Shekinah McFarlane

(as the voice of Tommy's mother, played by Donna Mullings) brought soul power to the rock score. Julien Capolei and Matthew Jacobs-Morgan sang for Tommy, the plaintive William Grint. Credit also to the singing of Alim Jayda as stepdad Frank and Amy Trigg as Tommy's only friend, Sally.

The uncomfortable 'Fiddle About' scene in which Tommy is sexually abused by his Uncle Ernie (Garry Robson) is creepily suggested. Lukas Alexander is a whirling demonic presence as the bully Cousin Kevin.

The star turn has to be theatre veteran Peter Straker as the formidable Acid Queen, presented as an over-the-hill drag act, who is gifted a new song from Townsend, Acid Queen 2. Straker doesn't hold back.

Tommy is a manic musical, flawed but fascinating with some great tunes. I doubt there will be many better productions of it than this, at Birmingham Rep to Saturday.

Star Reader Travel

Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Return coach travel from Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge*

Your Chronicle

in association with
Omega
ABTA
The Travel Association

ROYAL ASCOT

on Ladies' Day & Oxford

Departing Wednesday 21 June 2017

Price Includes...

Quote Code: ANQ666

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star hotel within 30 miles of central London with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
- ✓ Admission to the Windsor Enclosure at Royal Ascot on Ladies' Day, with coach transfer (ticket upgrade available at a supplement)
- ✓ A visit to Oxford

2 days, by coach

only £169.95pp

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/ANQ666

Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

EDINBURGH TATTOO

Departing Friday 18 August 2017

Price Includes...

Quote Code: EJP062

- ✓ 2 nights at a 3 or 4 star outer Glasgow area hotel with 3-course dinner at the hotel on the first evening and full Scottish breakfast
- ✓ Ticket (face value £35) to the 2017 Royal Military Tattoo on Saturday at 7.30 p.m.
- ✓ Free time in Edinburgh

3 days, by coach

only £209.95pp

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/EJP062

Single room supplement £60pp. Subject to availability.

*Please note: Not all pick up points are available on all breaks.

For more information or to book, please call:

01902 902165

Omegahotels

@Omegahotels

Omegahotels

Organised by Omega Holidays plc.
ABTA V4782

OPENING TIMES:
MON-FRI 8.30-19.00
SAT 8.30-16.00
SUN 10.00-16.00

HALF PRICE

SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

JUST £2.00 PER MONTH (INC. P&P)



To subscribe call our free customer care hotline on 0800 146 540

.....

Overseas 12-month gift subscriptions are available from: Europe £73.56, rest of the world £110.76 (Includes P&P, Direct Debit or Pre-payment)

.....

WOLVERHAMPTON
MAGAZINE

Celebration in memory of Joel

A DAY of 'celebration and reflection' will be held in memory of Tunisia terror victim Joel Richards.

Birmingham County Football Association, which Joel served as a referee, will hold the event at its base in Ray Hall Lane on Saturday.

Joel, 19, was killed in Tunisia in 2015 alongside his uncle Adrian Evans and grandfather Patrick Evans. He was a highly-rated young match official, who was also actively involved in a number of areas of the grassroots game across Birmingham. He also served as chairman of the Birmingham County FA's Youth Council, which provided a voice for young people on the development of the game at local level.

A match will take place in the afternoon, which will see friends, family and colleagues of Joel take part.

Entry will be made by donation, with all money raised going straight into the Joel Richards Foundation Legacy Fund.

Denise urges women to get on their bike



Denise Lewis is leading the Pink Ribbon Tour ride on June 11
BLACK Country Olympic hero Denise Lewis OBE is encouraging women to hop on a bike and cycle to support women with breast cancer.

The former gold-medal winning athlete will swap the track for a bike in the 25km cycle as she encourages women to join her for the Pink Ribbon Tour.

The 44-year-old from Wolverhampton will join 1,000 women in London on June 11 for the ride through the closed streets of the capital, ahead of the professional cyclists taking part in the final stage of The Women's Tour.

As a Breast Cancer Care Ambassador Mrs Lewis is cycling the 25km after losing her grandmother to the disease.

She said: "I've had close family and friends affected by breast cancer, that is why I'm cycling in the first Pink Ribbon Tour in London."

The registration fee is £32.50 for women aged 18 and over, 16 to 17 year-old girls must be accompanied by an adult. For those who cannot get to London, Denise is asking them to organise their own event. Go to breastcancer-care.org.uk/pinkribbontour for further details.

Steel giant Tata is back making profit

TATA Steel is back in the black thanks to improving sales and a boost from its supply chain operations, including investment at its key Steelpark site in Wednesfield.

The Indian-owned steel group's European arm had been hit by cheap Chinese steel imports, aggravating productivity and pension problems at its UK operations. But a major revamp and new pension deal with unions has put the steel giant back on track.

It has also invested £20 million at its 50-acre Steelpark in the Black Country, the largest steel service centre in the UK where it employs 525 people. In February it unveiled a £4m new robot welding line at Wednesfield to produce more than two million car parts a year. This helped boost figures for Tata Steel Europe, pushing profits to £230m in its best quarterly performance since 2008.

Tata Steel also employs around 100 at its Walsall and Brierley Hill plants.

Vengeful party yob is jailed for arson attack on Mini

A 21ST BIRTHDAY party ended disastrously when a disgruntled guest set fire to the car of the hostess in revenge attack after being asked to leave the celebrations, a court heard.

John Dalloway and his girlfriend were booted out when she got involved in a fight and he threatened to 'take them all on.'

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that police were called and, after his girlfriend had been arrested, 30-year-old Dalloway went to a garage

in the early hours of March 5 and filled a container with 1.5 litres of petrol.

He returned to the party's location in Childs Avenue, Woodcross, where he doused a Mini parked on the driveway and set it on fire, said Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting.

He was seen crouched by the car sparking a lighter moments before the vehicle burst into flames. Several people used buckets of water in an unsuccessful bid to put out the blaze that threatened another parked car on the drive and the house itself, before it was extinguished by firefighters.

Father-of-three Dalloway was arrested soon afterwards with a receipt

found in his vehicle confirmed he had bought petrol shortly, a purchase confirmed by the filling station's CCTV.

Mr Jon Roe, defending the self-employed builder from Tansey Green Road, Dudley, said: "It was a moment of madness after he had been drinking and taking drugs."

Dalloway, who had four previous convictions for criminal damage, pleaded guilty to arson and was jailed for four years and three months.

Judge Barry Berlin said that the defendant posed a significant risk of causing serious harm to the public and ordered that he be monitored for two years after release.



John Dalloway - jailed

Centre hope for go-kart cash

A PLAY centre in the Black Country is hoping for a donation from a supermarket giant to help replace go-karts that were wrecked by vandals.

Sycamore Adventure Centre in Dudley has been chosen to take part in Tesco's Bags of Help Grant Scheme and could net up to £4,000 if it gets enough votes from shoppers this month and next.

The centre launched an appeal for £3,000 after vandals scaled its fence last month and went on a wrecking spree, leaving most of its go-karts beyond repair. So far more than £1,000 has been raised, including an undisclosed donation from TV comedian Joe Lycett, who visited the site in March for Comic Relief.

Voting is open at Tesco and Tesco Express branches across Dudley, Sedgley and Gornal. Customers can cast their vote a token given at the check-out.

SPRING IS HERE!! DOES YOUR PROPERTY NEED A SPRING CLEAN?

Due to popular demand now taking bookings for Weekends and Bank Holidays

At BTF we specialise in the external cleaning of properties. Our team of experts are trained to tackle and revive the most dirty and worn of driveways, patios, tiled roofs and UPVC products. Based in Halesowen we offer a professional, friendly and efficient service, with thousands of satisfied customers across the West Midlands.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE :-

- ✓ Driveway and Patio cleaning
- ✓ Driveway Sealing and Recolouring
- ✓ UPVC Guttering, Fascia and Soffits, washed & cleaned
- ✓ Conservatories and Orangeries cleaned (inside & out)
- ✓ Tiled roofs washed and cleaned



For all of your external cleaning requirements,
call the experts at BTF Cleaning Services!!

BTF
CLEANING SERVICES LIMITED

www.btfcleaningservices.co.uk
Narrow Lane, Halesowen, West Midlands. B62 9ND
Tel/Fax No: 01384 568345



Five die in accident on the M6

FIVE people have died and a sixth person was critically injured in a crash between a lorry and a car on the M6 early on Wednesday morning.

The Nissan Micra's driver and four of its passengers were all confirmed dead at the scene near Stafford, while a sixth person in the same car was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

The driver of the lorry, aged 60, was unharmed and has been arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.

Staffordshire Police said four females and a male had died. They are all believed to be adults but formal identification had not taken place and officers were trying to trace their next of kin.

The sixth person's condition was described as serious but stable, while the driver, who is from the West Midlands, has been taken into custody and is being quizzed by police.

An 11-mile stretch of the motorway from Stoke new to Stafford was shut and was expected to remain closed until the afternoon, causing major delays for motorists travelling towards the Black Country.

Inquest verdict on tragedy that claimed teenager's life

THE INQUEST on a teenager knocked over and killed as he crossed the road on his bike has concluded – two years after his death.

Adam Jones, 15, was crossing Wall-sall Road in West Bromwich in March 2015 when he was hit by a VW Bora. The driver ran off after the crash and has never been brought to justice.

A court case over the death collapsed at the end of last year. Coroner Zafar Sid-dique has now concluded at Black Country Coroner's Court that Baggies fan Adam, from Wednesbury, died by way of a road traffic collision.

Unemployed Tyrone Sadler, 25, of Smethwick, had been charged with causing death by driving a vehicle while unin-sured. But the case against him collapsed due to a lack of evidence at the end of last year.

Sergeant Paul Hughes, the senior police

Report by Rob Cox

officer in the case, told the coroner that a bank card in Mr Sadler's name and a coat with his DNA were found in the Bora at the scene of the crash, as had been heard during the court hearings.

And Mr Sadler was called to the cor-ner's court in Oldbury last week to give evidence. But he chose not to answer questions from the coroner or a lawyer representing Adam's family, other than to confirm his identity.

Nigel Power, Forensic Collision Inves-tigator at West Midlands Police, told the coroner the car's driver would have had less than a second to avoid Adam. This was because it had been behind a silver Ford Focus which swerved to avoid Adam.

Mr Power, said: "It is most likely that the Bora would have been travelling in lane two [nearest the kerb].

"As the Ford Focus braked and swerved only then would the bike have come into

view of the Bora. If it was travelling at 40mph, and had been three to four car lengths back from the Focus as stated by its driver, the bike is likely to have been between 12m (39ft) and 16m (52ft) in front of the Bora. That would have given the driver between 0.67 seconds and 0.89 seconds to prevent the impact."

Mr Power explained that damage to the car was consistent with it having been travelling at 40mph, which is the road's speed-limit.

He added he could 'categorically state' Adam was doing a 'wheelie' when he was hit near to the junction with Beacon View Road. He concluded the driver of the Bora would have had insufficient time to avoid Adam who was left with catastrophic in-juries from which he died at the scene.

It is not known who was driving the Bora when the crash took place on March 26, 2015, at 7.39pm. The Bora was found 80m away from the crash scene.



Andy Bullingham, of Stourbridge Football Club, gets in some singing practice

STOURBRIDGE Football Club's vice-chairman will sing Abide With Me on the Wembley turf ahead of the FA Cup final – but he has yet to learn all the words.

Andy Bullingham, from Ambicote-based Glassboys, re-ceived a call from the Football Association to perform the hymn before Saturday's game, a London derby between Arsenal and Chelsea.

He will sing with seven other representatives from foot-ball clubs which have featured in this year's competition. The group will be backed by a band, and the stadium's 90,000 crowd.

Mr Bullingham will be wearing a Stourbridge FC replica shirt for the performance. He said: "I didn't know all the words, so my daughter has downloaded the lyrics so I can get learning."

The Glassboys reached the third round of the cup, defeat-ing league side Northampton Town. The club then went down to a 2-1 defeat at Wycombe Wanderers.

Roundhouse is now in line for £2.5m revamp

ONE of Birmingham's his-toric buildings is set to be brought back to life after being awarded a £2.5million National Lottery grant.

The funding will enable a partnership of the Canal and River Trust and the Na-tional Trust to revitalise the Grade II listed Roundhouse into a city base from which to explore Birmingham's famous canals by foot, bike or boat.

Situated on Sheepcote Street, next door to the for-mer Fiddle and Bone pub, the Roundhouse was built in 1874 by the Birmingham Corporation and was origi-nally used as stables and stores.

Designed by local archi-tect W.H. Ward, the horse-shoe shaped building has become a real landmark within the city but over the last 10 years the majority of it has been steadily falling into disrepair.

The investment from Heritage Lottery Fund will see the building restored to its former glory and rejuven-ated as a focal point on the city's canals, bosses behind the development hope.

Plans for the Roundhouse include a café, a cycle hire and repair workshop, volun-teering opportunities and a shared working space.

It's anticipated that The Roundhouse will attract more than 50,000 people a year

CLOSING DOWN SALE DUE TO REFURBISHMENT EVERYTHING MUST GO

Recliners & Riser Recliners Available



1000 fabrics, 100 leathers to choose £1000 P/X for your old suite

Free removal of your old bed *T&C Apply

Call in to view our many unbeatable offers on display WHILE STOCK LASTS

SAVE UP TO 75%

UNBELIEVEABLE DEALS

- CONWAY SUITE WAS £1595 NOW £695
- CORNER GROUP WAS £2195 NOW £995
- MATCHING SWIVEL CHAIR .. WAS £895 WAS £395
- BOSTON 3 SEATER, 2 SEATER AND ONE CHAIR, ALL RECLINING WAS £2195 NOW £1595
- DOUBLE BEDS WAS £799 NOW £299
- ODD BASES & MATTRESSES TO CLEAR ONLY £69
- KING SIZE DIVANS WAS £1099 NOW £599
- LEATHER BED SETTEE WAS £1895 NOW £695

Dreamworld furniture

Est. over 30 years

8 Stallings Lane, Kingswinford DY6 7HU
Large Free Car Park
Tel: 01384 295660



Mon-Sat 10am-5pm
Sunday 10.30am-4.30pm

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

UNITED CARPETS
WOODFLOOR & BEDS

UP TO

HALF PRICE SALE

PRICE SMASH

UP TO

4 Years 0% Interest Free Credit[†] & No Deposit

*Terms & conditions apply see in store for details.

PLUS

Free Fitting* Delivery & Measuring

*Free fitting applies to all carpets purchased with the equivalent size of our Airstep or Treadmore underlay. Stair surcharge applies.

Don't Miss out

**2 FREE
STORAGE
DRAWERS**

REGATTA

Hard-wearing stain resistant loop pile Berber, a great choice for any room. Available in a selection of beautiful natural colours.

SMASHED IT!

Was £5.97

£3.99
m²

SUNRISE

This stain resistant twist in a choice of beautiful colours.

UNBEATABLE

£5.97
m²

NOBLE

A fabulous flecked 'soft to touch' saxony carpet with stain resistant qualities in stripes or solid colours.

SMASHED IT!

Was £20.32

£9.99
m²

DUCHESS 4'6" POCKET DIVAN

Traditionally made hand tufted mattress with pocket springs, giving both quality, comfort and reduced partner disturbance.

SMASHED IT!

Was £519

£299

Headboard available at extra cost. Accessories not included.

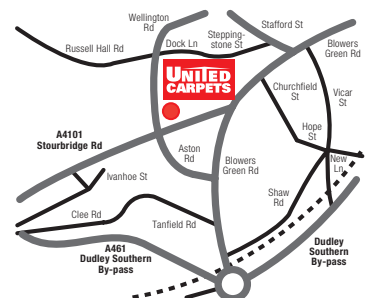
UNITED CARPETS
WOODFLOOR & BEDS

132 Wellington Rd, **Dudley**, West Mids,
DY1 1UB Telephone 01384 259966

www.unitedcarpetsandbeds.com or call Free on 0800 344 442

Opening Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Thur late night 8am-8pm, Sun 10am-4pm

Products subject to availability. *Free fitting applies when you buy the equivalent size of our Airstep or Treadmore underlay. Stair surcharge applies. Free fitting offer does not apply to laminate wood or vinyl flooring. Stocks vary from store to store. Colours in photos may vary slightly due to print quality. United Carpets accept no responsibility for printing errors. †United Carpets Woodfloor and Beds acts as a credit broker and only offers credit products for Secure Trust Bank PLC trading as V12 Retail Finance Ltd, all Credit is provided by external finance companies as determined by United Carpets Woodfloor and Beds. Minimum order applies.



FOCUS ON BLACKHEATH & ROWLEY REGIS

150th anniversary fund is launched at St Paul's

A MICROBREWERY that opened in Blackheath in the autumn of 2014 is expanding into a second unit.

Fixed Wheel was started by Scott Povey and is based on the Long Lane Trading Estate. He said the addition of a second unit on the estate would enable Fixed Wheel to increase out put and give it more room for cold storage and its on-site bar.

Fixed Wheel is taking on a third member of staff with the expansion to 2,000 sq ft. The addition of a fifth fermenting vessel means production can be stepped up to 40 barrels a week.

Fixed Wheel, which has won a number of awards at beer festivals in the Midlands since its launch, produces six main ales.

Scott was a home brewer for 10 years before leaving his job as an engineer to start Fixed Wheel.

Bank's £4m for housing

A HOUSING development can be completed after a banking giant offered to support the scheme.

A total of 14 four-bedroom homes are being built on Sedgley Road, Tipton.

Work began earlier this year and now IP Developments has secured £4.6 million funding from NatWest to finish the project.

The firm has also overseen the creation of 36 two and three-bedroom properties on York Road, Rowley Regis.

IT has stood as a symbol of religion in a Black Country town for almost 150 years but the time has come for major repairs.

Leaders at St Paul's Church in Blackheath say an inspection report on the building has revealed serious problems with the roof and guttering.

Signs of the damage were clear before the inspection with water leaks in the ceiling.

Now scaffolding has gone up around the building with workers checking the condition of the roof.

In preparation, the church has launched a fundraising campaign, named the 150th Anniversary Appeal Fund.

Church leaders want to organise events to raise money, but are also appealing for donations from the congregation and the wider public in Blackheath and the Black Country as a whole.

Reverend Mike Sermon said: "The church is really now showing clear signs of age and we need to raise money to carry out necessary repairs."

Celebration

Administrator Mary Evans said the planned work was the first for many years at the church in Long Lane.

She said: "We have had a lot of problems with the roof. A report was carried out on the church's condi-

By Alex Ross

tion and the roof came up as a problem. So we have paid to get scaffolding up around the building, and then we wait to hear the extent of the damage and what needs to be done.

"We fear the whole work will cost a lot of money."

The fund is aimed at raising around £40,000. And it is hoped the work will be done in time for 2019 - the 150th anniversary of the church.

Ms Evans said: "We're hoping to get the work done for the anniversary. It'd make a special celebration."

The church attracts congregations of about 50 people on a Sunday morning.

The foundation stone to the church was laid in 1868 and the church consecrated in 1869.

Ten years ago it suffered a fire after vandals broke in the church hall.



Vicar of St Paul's, Rev Mike Sermon, outside the church in Blackheath where scaffolding has gone up

Dentist's surgery is to expand

A DENTAL surgery in Blackheath is set to expand.

The Bhandal Dental group, which has surgeries across the West Midlands and three in Rowley Regis, has applied for planning permission for a further premises on Blackheath High Street in a former card shop.

Documents state: "The proposed new dental surgery will be annexed to the dental surgery on 74 Birmingham Road and will enable Dr Bhandal to continue accepting NHS patients."

The planning application is to change the use of the premises and to allow the construction of a two-storey extension at the rear.

The public car park at the rear will cater for staff and patients, however, there will be five private parking spaces created behind the surgery.

School looks at memorial

A SCHOOL wants to contact relatives of war heroes listed on a local memorial as part of a project.

Pupils at St Michael's High School in Rowley Regis, who will be making clay poppies, has invited relatives of the fallen still living in the area to take part.

The school will visit the Imperial War Museum and is planning an exhibition at St Giles Church in July. Contact caroleannetts39@outlook.com via email.

JORDANS SOLICITORS

Friendly, efficient and price competitive



Here at **Jordans Solicitors** we offer, Conveyancing both Residential and Commercial, Wills and Probate, Powers of Attorney & Family Law...

If the regular office hours 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday are not very convenient for you we can offer Thursday evening and Saturday morning

I Summer Hill, Halesowen B63 3BU Tel: 0121 585 3900
35 Payne Street, Blackheath, West Midlands B65 0DH
Telephone: 0121 559 2922

www.jordans-solicitors.co.uk

S & N Hodgkins (Jewellers)

★★ SCRAP GOLD WANTED ★★
CASH PAID.....ANY CONDITION OR WEIGHT



ON SITE WORKSHOPS FOR
clock, watch and jewellery repairs

- ✓ Watches
- ✓ Bracelets
- ✓ Earrings
- ✓ Engraving
- ✓ Rings
- ✓ Necklaces
- ✓ Clocks
- ✓ Watch Batteries and Straps
- ✓ Est. 1969



One Stop Shop For
All Gift Ideas...

151 HIGH STREET, BLACKHEATH B65 0EA
(NEXT TO THE NEW LIBRARY)
TELEPHONE: 0121 559 7156

JOHN T. HARRIS HOUSE FURNISHERS & RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICE

Sherborne

CLOSING DOWN SALE



Recliner Chairs

Stockist of chairs to make sitting and rising easier

- Divan Beds
- Bed Frames
- Mattresses

You can relax with us



Ortho Chairs



0121 559 2402
1A Causeway, Blackheath

Now open Saturday
10am-2pm, Weekdays
10am-4.00pm, Closed all day
Thursday • Private car park

Pub gets heart machine in memory of Alex, 25



Jamie Richards, left, from AED Donate, pictured with Tony Martin, Lizzy Hughes and Rebecca Marshall at the pub

A LIFE-SAVING defibrillator has been installed in a Rowley Regis pub in memory of a man who died from an undiagnosed heart condition.

Alex Brown, from East Park, Wolverhampton, died suddenly at the age of 25 in April 2015, after suffering from a fatal cardiac arrest.

His family and friends, including girlfriend Rebecca Marshall, have been raising funds to pay for heart screening for young people aged between 14 and 35, through the national charity

Cardiac Risk in the Young. They also want to install public access defibrillators in places memorable to Alex with the help of Stone charity AED Donate.

A defibrillator has been installed at the Four Ways Pub, Portway Hill, Rowley Regis.

His sister Rachel Dingle said her fit and healthy brother was loved by all. "His laugh and sense of humour were infectious," she added.

Friend Lizzy Hughes has organised fundraising fashion shows at Rowley Hall Primary School.

"We can never bring Alex back but we can hope that we can leave the lasting legacy he deserves," said Rachel.



Alex Brown, died suddenly aged 25

YOUR CHOICE BATHROOMS

YOUR CHOICE...FOR A BETTER BATHROOM

EXAMPLE FULL JOB FOR £3850

90x90 Quadrant Cubicle with low level tray
15 SQM Wall Tiles
Tiled Floor
Replacement Shower
New Basin & WC

THIS WEEK'S DISABLED SPECIAL

Are you having problems getting in and out of your bath? We will remove the bath and fit an easy access low level round, square or oblong cubicle and tile inside, supply a new replacement shower, a folding seat and grab rail

ALL FOR ONLY £2150

We do the lot in 5 days

Extra discount for our retired & disabled customers

We offer a free no obligation home visit and on the spot price within 48 hrs of your call

VAT FREE in Qualifying Cases

Unit 4, Charterfield Shopping Centre, Charterfield Drive, Kingswinford DY6 7SH
01384 287222

Showroom also at
39 Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV11 1TW **01902 861908**
SHOWROOMS OPEN 9am-5pm 6 Days a Week

WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE!



BUDGET TYRES from

£24.98

E.g. 155/70/13T Quality Budget

FIRESTONE TYRES from

£49.98

E.g. 205/55/16V Firestone

BRIDGESTONE TYRES from

£57.98

E.g. 205/55/16V Bridgestone

MOT SPECIAL OFFER

ONLY £35

ETB MENU SERVICE FULL & INTERIM AVAILABLE
Call for a FREE quotation

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS

MERRY HILL
Level Street, Brierley Hill, DY5 1UA
Close to Merry Hill Centre
01384 75555



WE ARE OPEN:

MONDAY - FRIDAY - 8.30am - 6.00pm
SATURDAYS - 8.00am - 4.00pm



ETB
A family run business for over 35 years.

WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE!

ALL INCLUSIVE PRICES WITH NO HIDDEN EXTRAS!

More great tyre bargains online at
www.etbtyres.co.uk

HIMLEY PARK
VINTAGE TRANSPORT
and Country Fair
SUNDAY 4TH JUNE 2017 • 10AM - 4PM



FULL SIZE AND MINIATURE TRACTION ENGINES, FAIRGROUND ORGANS & VINTAGE VEHICLES

COUNTRY FAIR
including arts & crafts, street foods, vintage stalls and hand crafted collectables.

Children's funfair • Punch & Judy show • Live music
Free admission • Car parking charge

For more information please call Himley Hall on 01384 817817

Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council

Himley Park, Himley, Dudley,
West Midlands DY3 4DF

LSD Promotions
Live Sound Design

SHEDS & SUMMERHOUSES

HIGH QUALITY, BUDGET COST

Large Selection Of Garden Furniture Now In Stock ...
Come and have a look around...

Be quick,
when they are
gone, they are
gone!



We can create any shed or summer house,
let us know what you want, we build it....

Feather Edge Panels	LAP Panels
6ft x 6ft.....£19	6ft x 6ft.....£18
6ft x 5ft.....£18	6ft x 5ft.....£17
6ft x 4ft.....£17	6ft x 4ft.....£16

Concrete Gravel Boards...£8.50
Concrete Post 8ft.....£10

TRADE DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

WE SUPPLY ALL
**Fencing
Products**
TRADE & PUBLIC
WELCOME

**Come and
see us before
you buy from
anywhere else**

We also stock all Fencing Products: Panels, Posts & Gravel Boards

Sheds & Summer houses, Unit 4, Stallings Lane, Kingswinford DY6 7LG

01384 944115 • 07594 841785

Home and garden

Everything for parents who play it neutral



Cuddle blankets are cute in beige

THIS week I became a grandma for the first time, our little bundle of joy was born three weeks early and was a healthy little girl.

Mum and Dad had not wanted to know the sex beforehand and had kept the nursery and baby goodies in completely neutral colours.

I have thoroughly enjoyed looking at the delightful baby clothes available and pleasantly surprised by the amount of design put into these tiny items.

There are stunning ivory, beige, coffee, and pale grey garments printed with teddy bear faces and animal appliques, stars, spots and moons. Co-ordinating muslin cloths, towels and soft fleece blankets, even dribble bibs, scratch mitts and tiny socks carry detailed prints and colour. There was in fact less blue and pink than I had expected and highlights were soft orange, lime and lemon.

2017 sees tiny garments sporting tropical fruits such as melon and pineapple in bright sunny colours, colourful parrots and mosaic birds on white backgrounds. Graphic animals for boys and girls include crocodiles, elephants and giraffes of many types. Monochrome black and whites, eco

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



neutrals, vintage pinks and lilacs with lavender sprigs and cottage garden prints, soft blues and duck egg embroidered dresses and neat collared shirts and plenty of super soft cardigans.

Applique features strongly, 3D teddy bear heads, faces and flowers, ears on hoods and hats and elaborate detailed pockets. Traditional polo shirts for the boys and coloured "broderie anglaise" frills for the girls. See <http://www.jo-jomamanbebe.co.uk> for some unusual designs and shapes with a European feel. Look at www.zara.com and www.next.co.uk for some great sleepsuits and accessories and www.dior.com for lovely traditional baby pyjamas and daywear.

The supermarkets offer fabulous value for money items and TK Maxx is well worth a visit too, little ones growing out of the garments before they can wear them more than a couple of times. There is so much choice out there!

Sleep sacks are fashionable, printed with primary stripes, colourful plodges and farm animals, made from the finest cool cottons, cuddle fleece blankets are just the softest ever and crib bottom sheets are velvety fine jerseys. Vintage quilting and knitted comforters are popular handmade items for the new addition and with the popularity of crafts there is sure to be knitted, crocheted and hand sewn gifts.

Adorable

Teddy bears are available in every possible colour, with adorable faces. Checked, knitted and memory bears made from baby's first baby grow. Cuddle cloths are ever popular, easier for baby to hold and topped with cute animal heads and little brushed toys made to fit the tiny hands intended to hold them. Nothing is more wonderful than that tiny face peering up from the cot dressed in a crisp little sleep suit printed "I love my mummy and daddy".

Visit www.jflexclusive.com, www.jflgarmentsolutions.co.uk
Follow [jflifeandloves](https://www.tumblr.com/jflifeandloves) on tumblr

A1 Pressure Cleaning

An Experienced and Friendly Pressure Cleaning Business With Use of professional industrial cleaning equipment based in Quarry Bank and surrounding areas.

- Drive Cleaning
- Patios & Pathways
- External Walls
- Removal of Moss and algae
- Re Sanding
- Re Sealing



Call now for a FREE quote 07913 601138 01384 837183
a1cleaning@virginmedia.com

ubhi's

KITCHENS & FURNITURE



Over
37 years
experience

DESIGN AND FITTING SERVICE

Est Since
1978

www.ubhikitchens.co.uk email: ubhis@outlook.com

Britannia Street, Tivdale Oldbury, West Midlands B69 2PG. Tel: 0121 557 7222

Find us on

THE WASHER
CENTRE



Repairs, Spares, Sales

All major brands repaired,
also built in appliances, electric
cookers, tumble dryers etc.

Brand new, reconditioned
appliances available

Brand New Washing Machine,
5 year parts and labour guarantee
Only £279 delivered and installed

Showroom open 9 am-5 pm Mon-Sat

60 High Street,
Blackheath, B65 0EH

0121 561 3785

• WHIRLPOOL • ZANUSSI • HOOVER • DYSON

JFB GATES & RAILINGS



WE HAVE MOVED!!!
Pop in and see us - lots of offers on

www.jfb-ironworks.co.uk
Unit 20 Waterside Ind. Est.
Mariot Road, Netherton DY2 9RG
07793 753320

REPLACING YOUR WINDOWS & DOORS WILL NOT COST THE EARTH ...

Direct manufacturers of quality
UPVC Windows, Doors & Patios

Est 1996

5 WINDOWS FOR £775
FULLY GLAZED

2ft x 5ft £98	3ft x 5ft £121	4ft x 5ft £141	4ft x 5ft £174	3ft x 6ft £141
------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------

Choice
of any 10
different
style doors
from only
£250



WHAT
YOU SEE
IS WHAT
YOU PAY
No hidden
charges

ADVANCE WINDOW
systems Ltd

Tel/Fax: 0121 565 0033 / 07752 921 699 A Rated Windows
Unit 12A Pope Street, Smethwick B66 2JP

PLUMBMASTER

SUPPLIERS TO TRADE AND PUBLIC

- Complete central heating and parts available
- Taps • Towel rails
- Showers
- Kitchen Units
- Fascias & guttering
- Bathroom Suites

FREE
QUOTES
FREE
DELIVERY

Gas and Electricity Safety Certificate

6 Genners Lane, Bartley Green, Birmingham, B32 3JL
(next to Newman University College)

Open Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm, Sat 8.30am - 1.00pm

0121 475 1112

E-mail: plumbmaster.uk@gmx.com

Weathering storm of climate change

BRITISH gardens could end up devoid of luscious lawns, with popular plants proving more difficult to grow and plant pests and diseases spreading, according to a new report from the RHS and leading academics into the impact of climate change on gardening.

Plants will have to cope with increasingly warmer and drier weather in summer, but also more turbulent spells with intense, sometimes unpredictable heavy showers and strong winds.

The news is not all bad, though. Gardeners in the north could enjoy a longer growing season, experts say.

The wide-ranging report, *Gardening in a Changing Climate*, looks at both the impact the increase in global temperatures is currently having on plants and gardeners, and the future of gardening as temperatures increase. The report is a collaboration between the RHS and academics from the universities of Sheffield, Reading and Coventry, with input from experts from the Met office.

It's the first in-depth analysis of the effects of climate change on UK gardening in more than a decade – the RHS last investigated the issue in 2002 with the National Trust and UKCIP (Climate Impacts Programme) to produce the *Gardening in the Global Greenhouse* report.

While the 2002 report concluded that gardeners would be basking in Mediterranean temperatures and so could grow more plants that thrive in bright, dry conditions. The updated



Green dream – the days of a luscious lawn could be limited

report has found that gardeners can expect more extreme weather, characterised by more variable, intense rainfall, combined with an increase in dry summers, which will be most pronounced in the south of the UK.

Gardeners looking to cope with the challenge of increased rainfall may have to adopt new practices to ensure the survival of some of our favourite plants. Traditional plants, such as tulips, alliums and asters may have to be planted in raised beds to survive increased rainfall. Those experiencing

higher temperatures may turn to heat loving plants, such as aloe or lavender.

Lush, green lawns are likely to be a major casualty and may have to be converted to dry meadows, as pressure on water supplies increases.

Based on the report, the RHS Garden for a Changing Climate will be unveiled at the inaugural RHS Chatsworth Flower Show next month, designed by Andy Clayden and Dr Ross Cameron of the University of Sheffield and RHS scientist Eleanor Webster. It will show a small suburban garden now and in the near future.

SHIRLEY AQUATICS IS MOVING! TO BECKETTS FARM IN SEPTEMBER 2017

ON THE A435 IN WYTHALL, JUNCTION 3 OF THE M42 - B47 6AJ

Our superstore has been based at the Shirley site for nearly 80 years but it's started to show its age and now is the time for the next chapter. From September 2017 we will be located in our brand new, custom built, state of the art facility at Becketts farm. Sign up to our newsletter for updates with details of the new store and the grand opening spectacular. Don't forget that we'll still be here until September for business as usual & we will always have our great range of fish & reptile equipment in stock at our usual low prices

MOVING SALE ON NOW

Large selection of pond plants with 40 varieties of lilies in stock from only £9.99 each

10% OFF ALL AQUARIUMS IN STORE

10% OFF all pond filters, pumps & ultra violet units

1000's of Koi, Goldfish, Sturgeon & all pond fish in stock at low prices.



Stratford Rd, Shirley, West Midlands B90 4EF
0121 744 1300 www.shirleyaquatics.co.uk
Mon - Sat 9am-6pm Sun - 10:30am-4:30pm



Latifs

for all the family...

Since 1956



YORK MEDIUM OAK DINING SET INCLUDING TABLE AND FOUR CHAIRS
RRP £199.99
LATIFS £79.99



PRINGLES 190G ASSORTED FLAVOURS
RRP £1.69
LATIFS JUST 79P!



6PC PATIO SET INCLUDING 4 FOLDING CHAIRS, TABLE AND PARASOL
RRP £99.99
LATIFS JUST £59.99!



SLEEP EASY MEMORY FOAM AIRFLOW PILLOW
RRP £19.99
LATIFS JUST £4.99!

BIRMINGHAM

New Canal Street, Digbeth B5 5PL

BILSTON

Loxdale Street, W'ton WV14 0TP

SEE IN STORE FOR DETAILS, PICTURES FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY

0800 00 92 555

www.latifs.co.uk

OPEN TO PUBLIC! NO MEMBERSHIP!

DOULTON DOORS

Garage Doors & UPVC Windows & Doors



Our Extensive Range of All Garage Doors Covers All Popular Brands

We have everything from Canopy to Side Hung styles

Wrought Iron Gates & Railings available



Visit Us At **Doulton Trading Est., Doulton Road, Rowley Regis B65 8JG**

Tel: 01384 413331 | 01902 628018

Freephone: 0800 0375179 Mobile: 07721 783291

www.doultondoors.co.uk



If you want to get ahead, get a vintage hat!

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



WE were recently approached by someone keen to sell a number of vintage hats in the saleroom – and were intrigued to find that said hats were just a minuscule part of a collection amassed over many years.

Our collector had begun in his youth by acquiring a policeman’s helmet (we didn’t ask how!) and that set the ball rolling as he went on to buy everything from a vintage baseball cap to an Edwardian top hat still in its original box.

And he’s apparently not alone in his quest for antique headgear, it seems collecting vintage hats has become rather popular.

Most people buy the hats for display purposes only but some are keen to wear them for special occasions, fancy dress parties or nostalgic trips down memory lane like the Severn Valley Railway ‘wartime’ days we regularly see here in Bridgnorth.

Hats were considered a luxury during the Second World War (hence the fashion for turbans!) so not that many were made and sold.



However, you can still find fedoras ‘pill boxes’ or ‘saucer’ hats in good condition, providing they have been well looked after.

The fedora and the trilby were favourites for men at the same time, again they can be seen in the saleroom looking good for their age.

The Victorians loved their bonnets and trimmed them extensively with ribbons, feathers and lace, which looked lovely but may well have succumbed to moth damage over the years.

If you are lucky you can still find one that has been carefully stored.

We do see a number of Victorian and Edwardian top hats at auction, often with their original boxes, and they do sell well although it’s important to check the size before you buy if the hat is to be worn.

As with all vintage items, check hats for damage and signs of wear before you buy and clean them thoroughly before wearing!

- Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.
- The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables takes place at the Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth, on Tuesday, June 6. Viewing will be during the weekend and on Monday and also from 10am on auction day. New sale bidders are advised to attend the saleroom early on auction day to register and be allocated a bidding number.
- Perry and Phillips hold sales on the first Tuesday of every other month.

Hats off to online sellers who offer varied choice



Fascinators come in many shapes and designs

WHEN I started secondary school my uniform included a pill box felt hat complete with an elaborate badge and chin elastic.

I hated it and it was pinged on the bus in the first week and stolen during the first month. I’m surprised I ever felt it safe to wear a hat again!

My time at college, too many years away to count, changed that and I wore a hat every day. The choice was wide and varied, berets, trilbys, straw and felt. It was a style thing, worn at a jaunty angle for a fashionable look linked to my clothing.

I look at the choice on the high street now and unless you want a wide and floppy brim or baseball cap you will struggle to find anything. Searching online however will provide a vast array of other styles. Caps, beanies, cloche, fedora, panama, homberg, the list is endless.

Our heads vary in size and are not relative to our body size. The correct measurement is taken from the circumference of the head just above the ears. Today headwear is often defined in centimetres, traditionally by specific defined measurements divided by two, Medium = 58cms or

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



traditionally size 7. They need to fit well to look good.

Unless we are off to a wedding we rarely wear a hat and even then the fascinator or large floral trim has overtaken the choice of head adornment. They suit nearly everyone because they come in so many designs small and neat or large and elaborate, even the pound shops offer neat little feathered trims in a variety of colours.

Claire’s Accessories have a wonderful choice but if you are looking for something special, to suit your personality and outfit, then visit a Get Ahead Hats (www.getaheadhats.co.uk) and match your colours, you can buy or hire and if you believe you are not suited to headwear, think again, there will be something amazing to complete your look.

Some of the earliest known headwear is

dated to 3200BC and appears in paintings on the walls of tombs in Egypt. Hats have defined us through history, characterise countries and cultures and represented rank.

In the Victorian and Edwardian era both men and women would not have left the house without headgear to match their outfits and military dress uniform still includes a hat.

We wear hats for many reasons, protection from the elements, ceremonial, religious, safety and fashion. Hard hats protect from falling objects, the Ushanka has fold down earflaps to protect from the cold, a mortarboard is worn at a graduation ceremony, a toque worn by chefs and turbans worn by Sikhs. Whatever the reason they are still a big part of our lives.

There is even a patron saint of felt hats – St Clement, who discovered wool melt and the word milliner came from Milan where the best quality hats were produced in the 18th century.

Visit www.jfflexclusive.com, www.jffgarmentsolutions.co.uk
Follow: [jfflifeandloves on tumblr](https://www.tumblr.com/jfflifeandloves)

Take your time before making choice over HRT

Report by Lisa Salmon

HORMONE replacement therapy can have a hugely beneficial effect on unpleasant menopause symptoms, reducing hot flushes, night sweats and mood swings, and improving quality of life for many of the one million UK women who take it.

But there are fears about the therapy’s side effects, with the latest research suggesting HRT – which usually involves the replacement of oestrogen and sometimes progesterone – could be associated with an increased risk of hearing loss in postmenopausal women.

Past studies have claimed HRT increases the risk of breast cancer, although more recent reviews have shown the association was exaggerated. Then there’s cardiovascular disease – some studies say HRT is protective, others say it increases the risks.

Confused? Here’s an outline of the current thinking on some of the benefits and risks of HRT...

RISK OF BREAST CANCER?

There was a sharp decline in the number of menopausal women taking HRT following a 2002 study by the US Women’s Health Initiative (WHI) claimed there was an increased risk of breast cancer with the use of oestrogen plus progesterone HRT.

However, a recent review of the evidence has highlighted serious errors in the WHI report, and Dr Heather Currie, chairman of the British Menopause Society (BMS)esses that the study didn’t show any statistically significant increased risk.

She explains it was designed to test the effects of HRT on older women, yet the conclusions applied exaggerated risks to all women.

“Clinicians have been struggling for nearly 15 years to disprove some of the information in the report, which was incorrectly deemed as factual,” she says.

Current evidence shows the risks are small and, for most women, outweighed by benefits, including symptom control and improved urogenital, bone and cardiovascular health.

RISK OF HEART DISEASE?

Despite numerous studies, the effect of HRT on heart disease is unclear. The WHI study found HRT increased the risk of heart disease in healthy postmenopausal women, yet 2012 Danish research found women receiving HRT soon after menopause had a significantly reduced risk of mortality, heart failure, or heart attack.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) says HRT doesn’t increase cardiovascular risk when started in women aged under 60, and it doesn’t affect the risk of dying from cardiovascular disease. Yet the British Menopause Society says the ELITE trial, which looked at the effect of starting HRT within six years of



HRT comes with benefits and risks for women going through the menopause

the menopause or after 10 years, has shown starting HRT early is beneficial.

So the theory is there’s a window of opportunity when early use of oestrogen after menopause may protect against heart disease.

DOES HRT CAUSE HEARING LOSS?

Studies have found that while menopause may increase the risk of hearing loss, possibly because of reduced oestrogen levels, postmenopausal HRT might slow hearing decline by replacing oestrogen. Yet this month, new US research has suggested postmenopausal HRT may be associated with a higher risk of hearing loss.

But Dr Currie warns that the research relied on women’s self-reported hearing loss and doesn’t prove HRT causes it, just that there may be an association.

“This should not terrify women and, as we have always said, the decision about HRT should be an individual choice based on the balance of benefits and risks.”

RISK OF OVARIAN CANCER?

A 2015 Oxford University analysis of 52 studies found HRT causes a small increase in the risk of ovarian cancer, with one extra

case for every 1,000 women taking HRT for five years from the age of 50.

Conversely, another 2015 study, from The Institute of Cancer Research, found women with the most common type of ovarian cancer can safely take HRT, and it could even improve their survival chances.

DOES HRT PREVENT OSTEOPOROSIS?

The major underlying cause of postmenopausal osteoporosis is the loss of bone resulting from oestrogen deficiency. Oestrogen helps increase bone mineral density and can also help prevent osteoporotic fractures in women.

Several international medical organisations have stated HRT is effective for preventing osteoporosis-related fractures in at-risk women before the age of 60, or within 10 years after menopause.

RISK OF BLOOD CLOTS AND STROKES?

A 2015 Cochrane review of existing research confirmed HRT increases the risk of strokes and blood clots, such as deep vein thrombosis. Researchers estimated that for every 1,000 women taking HRT, an extra six would have a stroke and an extra eight experience a blood clot.



But Dr Currie points out that the risks are affected by the route of HRT used, with transdermal oestrogen (by patch or gel) showing no increased risk of blood clot, compared with women not taking HRT.

THE EXPERT VIEW

Dr Currie points out that not every menopausal woman wants HRT, and some can’t have it because of personal or family medical history (such as breast cancer).

She says recent reanalysis of the data and consideration of further research has led to a better understanding of the risks.

“Evidence shows the risks are small and, for most women, outweighed by the benefits if treatment is started before 60, or within 10 years of the menopause,” she says.

Dr Currie says the decision to use HRT (or not) should be made by women who’ve been given clear, evidence-based information by a healthcare professional, including information about complementary therapies, lifestyle and dietary changes.

HRT dosage and duration should be individualised, with an annual evaluation of the pros and cons, she says.

The ricket

23

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, May 25, 2017

**HAVE THE TIME
OF YOUR LIFE
INSIDE**

MUSIC + TV GUIDE + PUZZLES + MORE

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY FUN at the CONE

Open: 10am - 3pm Monday to Friday, 11am - 4pm Saturday & Sunday

- Glassblowing demonstrations - Mon to Fri 11am - 2.30pm, Sat & Sun 12noon - 3.30pm
- Jam Club activities (small charge applies) • Studios open • Family crafts
- New Gnome and Fairy trail • Coffee House

Call **01384 812750** or visit **www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums**

RED HOUSE GLASS CONE High Street, Wordsley DY8 4AZ

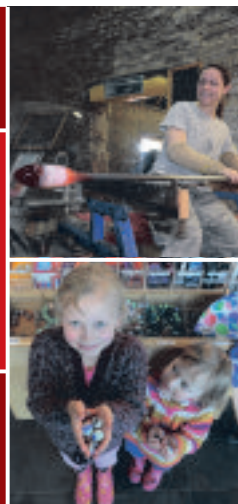


Red House Glass Cone



@redhousecone

Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council





Monday HALF PRICE NIGHT

off our main menu 5pm - 8pm
to include steak and grills

CARVERY SERVED ALL DAY EVERY DAY

**Mon - Sat 12pm - 8pm,
Sun 12 - 8pm**

**Kids Eat Free Carvery
Under 12's (with paying adult)**

**KIDS EAT FREE
MON-FRI
AFTER 3PM,
SAT-SUN ALL DAY**



ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET STYLE

**Breakfast
Only
£4.45**



**HOT DRINKS AVAILABLE
FRIDAY, SATURDAY
& SUNDAY 8.30AM - 11.00AM**



Follow us on



We now take bookings

**PARK LANE, COLLEY
GATE, B63 2NT
TELEPHONE: 01384 345824**

I quick-stepped to Dirty Dancing role

It didn't take Carlie Milner long to agree to star in Dirty Dancing. The all-singing, all-dancing performer was delighted to play Penny Johnson.

And who can blame her. Dirty Dancing, which runs at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to June 3, remains one of the nation's favourites.

Exploding with heart-pounding music, breathtaking emotion and sensationally sexy dancing, the film version has been seen by millions across the globe.

The worldwide smash hit tells the classic story of Baby and Johnny, two fiercely independent young spirits from different worlds, who come together in what will be the most challenging and triumphant summer of their lives. Featuring 35 hit songs, including Hungry Eyes, Hey Baby, Do You Love Me? and the heart stopping (I've Had) The Time Of My Life, it remains a true classic.

Carlie says: "It was one very quick chat with agent and we agreed that we'd do it. That was it."

She was formerly with Birmingham Royal Ballet, where she starred in Sleeping Beauty, and she also played in English National Ballet's Swan Lake, at the Royal Albert Hall. Stepping up as Penny Johnson has been a blessing and she's been on the road with it, off and on, since 2014.

"Yes, I started with it a few years ago. I was doing the old production and now we're back with a brand new interpretation of the show. I did the show for a year and a half and then I joined this production and we started rehearsals in June last year.

"Despite doing the show before, it's like doing a whole new show. I've really worked on the part and made it my own. It was a no brainer really."

The response from audiences has been ecstatic and Carlie thinks the musical has the perfect blend of comedy, drama and music to keep people entertained.

"It's a cult classic, it's got a huge following, as does the film, and that lends flavour to the theatre version. It appeals to more than just a theatre goer. You get people of all different ages going. It's lovely and there's the double nostalgia, with the show being set in the 60s but having lots of 80s music. It appeals to a wide audience and I think it will always be that way.

"The thing about Dirty Dancing is that it remains so current. I had the TV on last night and there was an advert and the first thing was the Dirty Dancing steps. It's always on TV. Every couple of months, you'll switch on and it's there. This production is a similar thing. I don't think it will go away. I know every show has to have a rest but then it comes back stronger.

"We had a new choreographer and a new director, new steps and I guess I had a break of six to eight months between shows. It's kind of nice coming back and seeing what else I can bring to it."

Carlie copes well with being away from home and describes herself as a good tourist. She's used to the routine of packing her suitcase each Sunday and hitting the road.

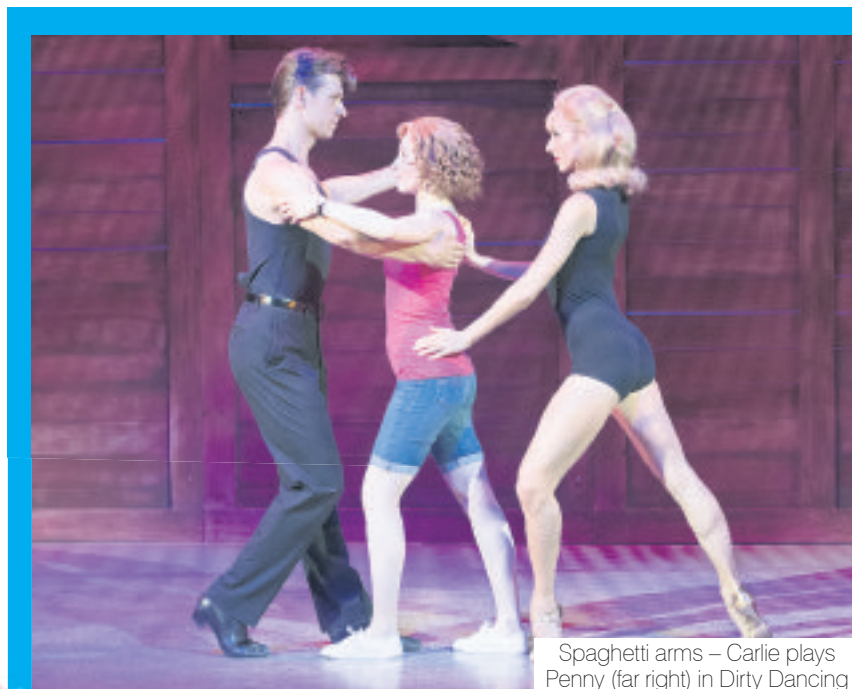
"It's a tough schedule but it's great. You just have to get on with it. You kind of accept that part of it. I'm on the move for a year and get home when I can.

"I like to think I'm pretty disciplined. Not to blow smoke up my own backside but you have to look after yourself and put work before play, if you're feeling tired. The more discipline you have the better. It's such a physical show and is so demanding."

She's looking forward to returning to Birmingham, where she was a student at the BRB. She learned a huge amount from the internationally-renowned troupe.

"BRB is a different world compared to musical theatre, certainly in terms of dance. You learn nothing but professionalism. I really value my time working with those companies at such a young age. It was great. It was invaluable. I feel like I've taken that into the other jobs and it was incredible to be in that.

"And to be in Swan Lake at the Albert Hall, a phenomenal theatre, surrounded by 40 other swans



Spaghetti arms – Carlie plays Penny (far right) in Dirty Dancing

was insane. I'll never forget it. It was absolutely wonderful.

"I started off in ballet school and I wanted to do classical and that's what I did for the first few years. Like a lot of people who go through this, your options change through the years. Four years ago I decided to get involved in musical theatre. It was quite challenging after coming from a classical background.

Carlie fell into the role of Penny with ease, after understudying her character for a year-and-a-half. "It's something that I've always wanted to do, so to be able to call that role my own was great because I had really enjoyed it previously. In the old show

I played Penny quite a lot as an understudy because unfortunately the main cast member suffered an injury.

"I'm quite lucky with the fact that Dirty Dancing is heavily dance based but I do really love all the acting as well. If I told myself four years ago that I would be playing Penny on a national tour I wouldn't have believed myself. This is the highlight of my career.

"It really is the film on stage. We throw a little bit extra in there and you have live singing and group singing parts which don't really feature in the film. It's a theatrical twist on the original."

Dirty Dancing – The Classic Story On Stage originally opened at London's Aldwych Theatre in 2006 with a record-breaking advance of £15 million, making it the fastest-ever selling show in West End theatre history. The production became the longest running show in the history of the Aldwych Theatre and played to over two million people during its triumphant five-year run.

It has become a worldwide phenomenon, with productions staged in the USA, Canada, Germany, Australia, the Netherlands, Sweden, South Africa, Hong Kong, Singapore and throughout Europe, consistently breaking box office records.

It's a tough schedule but it's great. You just have to get on with it

Recent sell out tours include France, Germany and Australia.

The first ever UK tour of Dirty Dancing – The Classic Story On Stage, launched in 2011 and then returned to the West End in 2013 playing at the Piccadilly Theatre in London, prior to launching a second UK and Ireland tour.

The new production also features Lewis Griffiths, as Johnny Castle. Lewis has had a prolific career in musical theatre, most recently starring as Nick Massi on the UK tour of Jersey Boys. Other roles in UK tours include Ghost and Legally Blonde, and West End credits include Priscilla Queen of the Desert, Rent and Whistle Down the Wind.

It also features Katie Hartland, as Baby Houseman. Katie made her professional musical theatre debut carrying the watermelons as Baby Houseman, having graduated from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in 2015.

The show is set in the summer of 1963, and 17 year-old Frances 'Baby' Houseman is about to learn some major lessons in life as well as a thing or two about dancing. On holiday in New York's Catskill Mountains with her older sister and parents, she shows little interest in the resort activities, and instead discovers her own entertainment when she stumbles across an all-night dance party at the staff quarters.

Mesmerised by the raunchy dance moves and the pounding rhythms, Baby can't wait to be part of the scene, especially when she catches sight of Johnny Castle the resort dance instructor.

A show not to be missed.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Rock 'n' roll musical Grease



Grease – the one that you want back on stage

Grease is the word at Birmingham Hippodrome where the latest tour of the much-loved rock 'n' roll musical arrives on Monday.

The show, which runs until June 3, is bringing a special guest for the cameo role of Teen Angel – Jimmy Osmond – who played that part in the West End production.

Tom Parker, formerly of boy band The Wanted, will make his musical theatre debut as Danny Zuko, the role made famous in the movie by the young John Travolta. Danielle Hope, who was Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz at the London Palladium after winning TV's Over The Rainbow, will step into Olivia Newton-John's high heel shoes as Sandy. Danielle was also recently seen in Hippodrome panto Dick Whittington.

The role of wisecracking Rizzo will be played by EastEnders and The Bill star Louisa Lytton, one of the youngest Strictly Come Dancing competitors in 2006.

Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey's musical, featuring such songs as You're The One That I Want, Summer Nights, Greased Lightnin' and Hopelessly Devoted To You, has been choreographed by Arlene Phillips and directed by David Gilmore, who was also at the helm for stage versions of Happy Days and Footloose.

A saucy feel-good romantic musical set in an American high school during the rock 'n' roll era, Grease is one of the most popular shows. This award-winning production opened in the West End in 1993, where it had a six year run, and has toured ever since. Visit birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000. Grease will also visit Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from November 27 to December 2.

Dance delight from breaks to ballet



Hot on the heels of last weekend's B-Side Hip-Hop Festival in and around Birmingham Hippodrome, the UK's biggest festival of Hip Hop Dance, Breakin' Convention, comes to Birmingham bringing jaw-dropping performances from around the world and around the corner.

On Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3, at Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Breakin' Convention includes performances from international hip hop dance crews including Soweto Skeleton Movers (from South Africa), Just Dance (South Korea) and all-female crew Tentacle Tribe (Canada).

In addition to the headline international acts, local crews, DJs, graffiti art and freestyle jams will

transform The Rep's foyer making Breakin' Convention an experience rather than just a show.

Now in its 14th year, Breakin' Convention has firmly established itself as one of the major highlights on the British dance calendar. It is hosted and curated by UK hip hop pioneer Jonzi D, pictured, who said: "The Birmingham hip hop scene is one of the best in the UK, it's always been hype!"

The festival includes the best from the West Midlands including Rhythm Junkiez Dance Company from Sutton Coldfield and Birmingham companies Jigsaw Collective, Broken Silence, Marston Cadets, plus 2014 UDO world street dance champions Street Dance Academy.

The two-day festival is suitable for all ages and includes B-Totz for under 10. For full details see breakinconvention.com, tickets start from £10, call 0121 236 4455.

Tonight (Friday) and tomorrow the seductive world of Argentine tango is explored in Milonga at Birmingham Hippodrome, in which Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui brings his unique vision to tango with a cast of 17 performers.

Meanwhile, Northern Ballet bring their new production by Daniel de Andrade, based on the heart-breaking story of The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Tuesday and Wednesday plus, for younger audiences, Goldilocks on Wednesday afternoon.

Home inspiration for Saint Etienne

Saint Etienne emerged in 1990 with a gentle danceloor-orientated sound as Britpop exploded all around them. Charting with Join Our Club and You're in a Bad Way, the trio of singer Sarah Cracknell (pictured) with Bob Stanley and Pete Wiggs won fans with the albums Foxbase Alpha, So Tough and Tiger Bay. Five years on from their last album, they return with 16 new songs on Home Counties, released on June 2. They have a gig at Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday, June 4.



Punk and metal rule at Slam Dunk

It's Slam Dunk Saturday this weekend with the rock festival's line-up at Birmingham NEC now in excess of 60 bands.

The Slam Dunk Festival, which is also held at Leeds and Hatfield over the weekend, used to be held at Wolverhampton Civic Halls. It's an annual celebration of punk, ska, emo and metal music. Bands will be performing on eight stages.

Headliners include Enter Shikari – marking ten years since debut album Take To The Skies – plus Bowling for Soup, Neckdeep, Tonight Alive, Against Me!, Memphis May Fire and Nottingham's Area 11. They will be performing alongside such favourites as Don Broco, Deaf Havana, Beartooth, Japan's Crossfaith, Reel Big Fish, We The Kings and Less Than Jake. See slamdunkmusic.com for the latest.

Great Bar... Great Food... Knight's Quest

Great Entertainment...

THUR 25/05/17
STARMAKERS KARAOKE
FRI 26/05/17
DAZZLER
SAT 27/05/17
GARY BARLOW TRIBUTE
SUN 28/05/17
STARMAKERS KARAOKE

MON 29/05/17
BENS DISCO & KARAOKE
TUE 30/05/17
PREDATORS KARAOKE
WED 31/05/17
YANA!
THUR 01/06/17
STARMAKERS KARAOKE



DAILY CARVERY
only
£3.45

We also serve
GREAT STEAK & GRILL DEALS

SUNDAY CARVERY
only
£4.95
Mon - Sat
12 noon - 2.30pm
Mon-Thurs
6pm - 8pm
Sunday
12 Noon-5pm

"It's Great Down the Pub!"

High Street, Blackheath

Tel: 0121 561 5599

MON-THURS: 12.00-2.30PM, 6-8PM | FRI-SAT 12.00-2.30PM

Find us at www.theknightsquest.co.uk

We serve until 1am on Sundays, Midnight Monday-Wednesday, 1am Thursday, until late Friday & Saturday DOORS CLOSE 11.00 pm Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun

SHOULDER OF MUTTON

65 Birmingham Road, Rowley Regis B65 0HS



LIVE HERE



All sport events shown live

ENTERTAINMENT
EVERY
FRIDAY
NIGHT
8PM
'TIL LATE

Selection of Real Ales including:
Bathams, Burton Bridge, Enville, Holdens, Wye Valley and many more!

SHOULDER OF MUTTON LOYALTY CARD



10p back for every £1.00 spent on your loyalty card

JOIN OUR NEW LOYALTY CARD SCHEME
10p back for every £1.00 spent
Ask inside for more details
Terms and conditions apply. Card for illustration purposes only.

CHOICE



Gwendolen Chatfield

Jane Austen: Behind Closed Doors (BBC2, 9pm)
Historian Lucy Worsley embarks on a road-trip across England to take in some of the places Jane Austen lived in and visited during her lifetime. She aims to demonstrate how Jane's personal experiences influenced the central themes of home and property in her novels, and makes use of detective-work to recreate some of the most important locations that no longer stand. She begins in Stoneleigh Abbey, Warwickshire, retracing a journey that marked one of the many times the Austens veered wildly between wealth and genteel poverty – mirroring the Dashwoods of Sense and Sensibility. Lucy also travels from Jane's birthplace in Steventon, Hampshire, to her brother's grand estate.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Pointless Celebrities. (R) 2.00 The FA Cup Show. 4.00 BBC News: 4.10 Regional Programme. 4.15 MOTD Live: FA Cup Final Build-Up. 5.15 MOTD Live: FA Cup Final. Arsenal v Chelsea (Kick-off 5.30pm).
7.45 Doctor Who. The Doctor, Bill and Nardole find themselves in the middle of a war-zone, as Chinese, Russian and American forces stand poised to clash. At the centre of the field of battle is a 5,000-year-old pyramid, and while there are many problems with the situation presented, the Doctor is concerned with only one – there was no pyramid there yesterday. With the three opposing forces promising mutually assured destruction, and every clock in the world counting down to Earth's ruin, an offer of help arrives in the form of a message from an alien race. To avoid annihilation, humanity must willingly become slaves for their would-be saviours. Sci-fi drama, starring Peter Capaldi and Matt Lucas.
8.30 Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles challenges two pairs of complete strangers to team up, and battle it out to list as much as they know about a given subject.
9.15 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes looks after a robotic baby that has been given to Dermot and Maria to help them prepare for their new arrival, and Cathy develops a crush on her psychology lecturer. (R)
9.45 BBC News: Weather. National Lottery Update.
10.05 Cliche. Holly remains suspicious about the cliche, despite now being at his heart, and a climactic encounter during a night out tests friendships – both new and old – to breaking point.
10.50 Cliche. Holly worst fears are confirmed, just as she is beginning to settle into her new life in Edinburgh, and tensions mount during a party to celebrate Georgia's achievements at Solasta.
11.35 MOTD: FA Cup Final Highlights. Arsenal v Chelsea. Action from the showpiece match at Wembley Stadium.
12.10 Film: Swingers. (1996) **1.45 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.50 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.15 Film: City Beneath the Sea. (1970) **7.45 Deborah Kerr: Talking Pictures.** (R) **8.20 Film: The Prisoner of Zenda.** (1952) **10.00 Monty Hall's Great Hebridean Escape.** (R) **11.00 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **12.00 Great British Menu.** (R) **12.30 Great British Menu.** (R) **1.00 Great British Menu.** (R) **1.30 Film: Camelot.** (1967) Musical, starring Richard Harris. **4.20 Flog It!** (R) **5.00 Nature's Miniature Miracles: Natural World.** Documentary telling how the world's smallest animals manage to survive, revealing how they have evolved extraordinary skills and achieved mindboggling feats. Hugh Dennis narrates. (R)
6.00 Golf: PGA Championship. Erilich Barbour presents highlights of the third day of the European Tour's flagship event from Wentworth in Surrey. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown and Andrew Cotter.
7.00 Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life. Exploring the wildlife, landscape, and culture in three distinct areas of the country. (R)
8.00 RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2017. Coverage of the annual horticultural event, which takes place in the west London district.
9.00 Jane Austen: Behind Closed Doors. Lucy Worsley embarks on a road-trip across England to visit some of the many places that informed the central themes of home and property in Jane Austen's novels.
10.00 Film: Quartet. (2012) Three former opera singers prepare for their annual concert to mark Verdi's birthday and raise funds for their retirement home. However, this year, a famous diva has joined the group, and her history with the others threatens the performance. Comedy drama, directed by Dustin Hoffman and starring Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Tom Courtenay, Pauline Collins and Michael Gambon.
11.30 Versailles. William of Orange "tempts" the King to take the field against his Dutch army, so Queen Marie-Therese takes charge while Louis XIV is away at war. (R) Inside Versailles.
12.30 Film: Easy Money. (2010) A student, a fugitive and a Mob enforcer's lives overlap through their involvement in organised crime. Thriller, with Joel Kinnaman, Matias Varela and Dragomir Mrsic. **2.30 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockout Street. **6.10 Bottom Knockout Street.** (R) **6.25 Sooty.** (R) **6.35 Signed Stars: Share a Story.** (R) **6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **7.00 Outbods.** (R) **7.05 Super 4.** (R) **7.20 Marvel Avengers Assemble.** (R) **7.45 Thunderbirds Are Go.** (R) **8.10 Ben 10.** **8.25 ITV News.** **8.30 Weekend.** **9.25 The Home Game.** (R) **10.20 Judge Rinder.** (R) **11.15 Tipping Point.** (R) **12.20 ITV News: Weather.** **12.30 Film: Mission: Impossible.** (1996) Action thriller, starring Tom Cruise. **4.35 Catchphrase.** (R) **5.20 Britain's Got More Talent.**
6.15 Regional Programme; Weather. **6.25 ITV News: Weather.**
6.45 Take Me Out. An account manager from Leeds, a housing executive from Belfast, a professional BMX rider from Portsmouth and an IT manager from Exeter try to impress 30 women and win a date.
8.00 Britain's Got Talent. The nationwide talent contest's audition phase draws to a close, as Ant and Den bring out one last batch of would-be stars to perform in front of judges Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, David Walliams and Amanda Holden. So far, Amanda, Alesha, Simon, and Ant and Dec have all made use of their Golden Buzzer privileges to send four acts directly through to the live semi-finals, with David remaining true to form and holding back on throwing his support behind any one performance until late in the audition process. Regardless, tonight will see the judges pick one last set of performers to bring the total of shortlisted acts to 35, before the elimination process gets under way with the first live semi-final on Monday.
9.20 The Keith and Paddy Picture Show. Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness present their version of Jaws, guest starring Stephen Tompkinson, Mylene Klass and Hank Osasuna.
9.50 Film: Jaws. (1975) A seaside town's police chief has to deal with a giant killer shark preying on tourists. Steven Spielberg's thriller, starring Roy Scheider.
10.50 ITV News: Weather. **11.05 Film: Jaws.** (1975) Concluded.
12.25 Jackpot247. 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.30 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Motor Sport: British Rally Championship. **6.30 Monaco Historic Grand Prix 2016.** (R) **7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.20 Frasier.** (R) **8.55 Frasier.** (R) **9.25 Frasier.** (R) **9.55 Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Practice 3 Live.** **11.25 Formula 1 Meets Claire Williams.** **11.55 Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Qualifying Live.** **2.30 World's Most Expensive Cars.** **3.30 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.** (R) **4.30 Big House, Little House.** **5.35 Location, Location, Location.** (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 The Restoration Man. George Clarke meets retired businessman Bruce Woodall, who 30 years ago started to restore a Georgian gazebo tower on a piece of Pembroke's medieval city walls – and has finally taken on the challenge of finishing the job. However, he discovers that since his architect drew up the plans, conservation laws have changed, threatening to shut down the project for good. George unravels this local landmark's 500-year-old secrets, finding its place in key chapters in English and Welsh history – but has the gazebo tower's story finally come to an end? (R)
8.00 Walks with My Dog. Ben Fogle takes his Labrador along the banks of the Thames, beginning in Marlow, while broadcaster Emma Kennedy and her malipoop puppy visit the Lake District. Plus, Helen Skelton and her dog Barney embark on a voyage of discovery in Dumfries and Galloway, on Scotland so-called "secret coast".
9.00 Film: The World's End. (2013) A 40-year-old man who refuses to grow up drags four reluctant childhood friends back to their home town to recreate a pub crawl they attempted in their teens. As they work their way round the 12 local bars, they stumble on a threat to the entire human race. Sci-fi comedy, starring Simon Pegg and Nick Frost.
11.10 Film: Die Hard 2. (1990) A lone cop battles terrorists who have taken over an airport to force the release of a convicted drug baron. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis and Bonnie Bedelia.
1.25 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.20 The Last Leg.** (R) **3.15 Hollyoaks.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.10 The Fairly OddParents. (R) **10.45 Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud.** (R) **11.10 Police Interceptors: Dog Squad.** (R) **12.05 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole.** (R) **1.05 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole.** (R) **2.05 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole.** (R) **3.05 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) **4.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **5.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** In Staffordshire, the agents chase up a £3,000 deposit owed by a landlord to his tenant, and officers in Birmingham try to recover £25,000 from a nightclub owner for unpaid solicitor fees. Meanwhile, agents Max and Paul are in Surrey as they attempt to collect more than £3,000 owed to a garage after a customer disputed the repairs made to his van. (R)
7.00 Cricket on 5. England v South Africa. Action from the second one-day in the three-match series, held at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton, as the sides warmed up for the ICC Champions Trophy. With commentary from Geoffrey Boycott, Simon Hughes, Michael Vaughan, Graeme Smith and Mark Nicholas.
8.00 5 News Weekend.
8.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. Part one of two. The agents investigate when two men are killed at a gun shop, but soon discover one of their colleagues could be at risk.
8.55 NCIS. The team, alongside the FBI and MI6, continues the international manhunt for a disgraced British spy, while a colleague fights for their life in the ICU.
9.50 NCIS: Act of Vengeance. Feature-length episode. The team learns in the wake of the terrorist attack, but tries to avenge Kate's death by collecting as much information as possible on An before he does any more damage. Meanwhile, Gibbs learns one of his old flames has been named as the new NCIS director. (R)
11.40 Undercover Benefits Cheat. Paul Connolly goes undercover as a benefits claimant in order to expose fraudsters, beginning with those who claim housing support while subletting.
12.10 SuperCasino. 3.10 Film: The Punisher. (1989) **4.40 Access.** (R) **4.50 House Doctor.** (R) **5.15 Wildlife SOS.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Saints and Sinners: Britain's Millennium of Monasteries. **8.00 Nature's Great Events.** **9.00 Hinterland.** **10.30 Top of the Pops: 1983.** **12.00 The Joy of the Bee Gees.** **1.00 Bee Gees at the BBC and Beyond.** **2.00 Boogie Fever: A TOTP2 Disco Special.** **3.30 Close**
ITV2
12.10 Britain's Got More Talent. **1.10 Take Me Out.** **2.25 Take Me Out – The Gossip.** **3.25 You've Been Framed! Gold Unleashed!** **4.30 Film: Space Chimps.** (2008) **5.30 FYI Daily.** **5.35 Film: Space Chimps.** (2008) **6.10 Film: Red Riding Hood.** (2011) **7.10 FYI Daily.** **7.15 Film: Red Riding Hood.** (2011) **8.15 Scorpion.** **9.20 Britain's Got More Talent.** **10.20 Celebrity Juice.** **11.20 Family Guy.** **12.45 American Dad!** **1.15 Film: Bring It On.** (2000) **2.15 FYI Daily.** **2.20 Film: Bring It On.** (2000) **3.00 Teleshopping**
ITV3
11.50 Jane Eyre. **2.05 Film: Carry On Loving.** (1970) **3.15 FYI Daily.** **3.20 Film: Carry On Loving.** (1970) **4.00 Lewis.** **6.00 Rosemary & Thyme.** **7.00 Midsomer Murders.** **9.00 Fivers' War.** **11.10 Law & Order: UK.** **2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen.** **2.30 Teleshopping**
ITV4
11.00 The Classic Car Show. **12.00 British Touring Car Championship Highlights.** **1.30 ITV Racing Live from Haydock.** Coverage of today's race meetings at Haydock Park. Goodwood and Yox. **4.30 Pawn Stars.** **6.00 Storage Wars.** **7.00 The Sweeney.** **8.00 Better Late Than Never.** **9.00 Film: Gascoigne.** (2015) **10.05 FYI Daily.** **10.10 Film: Gascoigne.** (2015) **10.55 Premiership Rugby Union.** **11.55 River Monsters.** **1.00 Road Racing Series.** **2.00 Fifth Gear.** **2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen.** **3.00 Teleshopping**
E4
12.00 The Goldbergs. **2.30 Rude(ish).** Tube Shorts **2.40 The Big Bang Theory.** **6.45 Film: The Three Musketeers.** (2011) **9.00 Film: The A-Team.** (2010) **11.25 Gogglebox.** **1.35 Rude Tube.** **2.35 Tattoo Fivers.** **3.25 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD.** **Film4**
1.00 Casper. (1995) **3.05 Napoleon Dynamite.** (2004) **4.55 Johnny English.** (2003) **6.35 Beautiful Creatures.** (2013) **9.00 The Day After Tomorrow.** (2004) A climatologist races across America to rescue his son as freak weather conditions cause devastation around the world. Disaster thriller, starring Jake Gyllenhaal. **11.25 Insidious.** (2010) **1.30 The Haunting in Connecticut.** (2009) **3.40 Close**

£ £ £ £ £

**IT'S BACK
IT'S BACK
MIDLANDS
BIGGEST
CAR
BOOT SALE**

Spring Bank Holiday Monday 29th May
at Mill Lane, Saredon, Wolverhampton WV10 7LJ

SELLERS TURN UP FROM 6AM

6 am-2 pm

**THIS SUNDAY AND
EVERY SUNDAY**

Now at Dark Lane,
Featherstone WV10 7HT

Just off main A460.
1minute from J11 M6
1minute J1 M54

All enquiries Tel: 07831 192 116, 01785 282234
Or for more information visit
www.gocarbootsales.com

**Buy and sell with
ClassifiedAds**

- 1**

Visit our ClassifiedAds website
classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk
- 2**

Call our Classified sales team
on **01902 317 878**
- 3**

Self Serve - Create your own advert
in print and online - visit:
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

CHOICE



Elisabeth Moss

The Handmaid's Tale (Channel 4, 9pm)
New series. Dystopian drama based on Margaret Atwood's novel about a future American theocracy, in which declining birth rates have led to a new social order, where the few remaining fertile women are kept as slaves to carry children for the regime's leaders. Elisabeth Moss stars as one of these women, who struggles to cope with her repressive existence and the resentment of her owner's wife. Joseph Fiennes, Yvonne Strahovski, Alexis Bledel, Madeline Brewer, Ann Dowd, O-T Fagbenle, Max Minghella, Samira Wiley, Amanda Brugel also star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.25** MOTD: FA Cup Final Highlights. **(R) 9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. **(R) 1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. **(R) 2.15** Money for Nothing. **(R) 3.00** Flog It! **(R) 3.45** Shop Well for Less? **(R) 4.45** Points of View. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Escape to the Country. **(R) 6.05** BBC News. **6.20** Regional Programme. **6.30** Countryfile. A round-up of reports on spring, including the return of tulips to Lincolnshire's farmlands, an influx of migrating jellyfish in Cornwall and a visit to Exeter's livestock market. **7.30** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from an 18th-century cotton mill on the banks of the River Clyde, where a painting is a reminder of its owner's uncomfortable family secret. **8.30** Damiola, Our Loved Boy. In November 2000, 10-year-old schoolboy Damiola Taylor was attacked and fatally wounded in Peckham, south London, a death that shocked the nation. This feature-length drama reveals the personal stories behind the headlines, exploring Damiola's journey from Lagos to London, and showing how Richard and Gloria Taylor coped with their personal lives as well as the pressure of the media as they fought for justice for the killing of their son. Babou Ceesay, Wunmi Mosaku and Sammy Kamara star, with Robert Pugh. **(R)** **10.00** BBC News. **10.25** Regional Programme. **10.35** Room 101 - Extra Storage. Extended version of the comedy panel show in which Frank Skinner invites Claudia Winkleman, John Humphrys and Russell Kane to compete for the chance of banishing their pet hates. **(R)** **11.15** Murder in Successville. Comedy starring Tom Davis as DI Sleet, who enlists the help of a genuine famous sidekick to solve the latest high-profile murder. Last in the series. **11.45** The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game. **12.00** Film: Lucky Them. (2013) **1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Around the World in 80 Gardens. **(R) 7.15** The Instant Garden. **(R) 8.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.30** Countryfile. **(R) 9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Great British Menu. **(R) 11.30** Great British Menu. **(R) 12.00** Live Athletics: Great Manchester Run. Coverage of the 15th staging of the event. **2.30** Athletics: Diamond League Highlights. **3.30** Rowing: European Championships Highlights. **5.00** Athletics: Great Manchester Run Highlights. **6.00** Golf: PGA Championship. Eilidh Barbour presents highlights of the final day of the European Tour's flagship event from Wentworth in Surrey, with commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown and Andrew Cotter. **7.00** Dragons' Den. Evan Davis presents the business ideas contest, as regular panelists Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Sarah Willingham, Touker Suleyman and Nick Jenkins consider the profit-making potential of wearable maps, interference-free guitar cables and keys for manhole covers. However, this last scheme comes from an entrepreneur who has previously come to the edge of bankruptcy. **(R)** **8.00** The Life Swap Adventure. New series. Volunteers trade places with people from other countries, hoping to gain a new outlook on life when they return. John, an overworked fire officer from Essex who worries he does not spend enough time with his children and grandchildren, swaps homes with a farmer from Malawi who envies Western technology and fears for his family's future. **9.00** Paul Hollywood's Big Continental Road Trip. New series. he Bake Off judge takes a series of road trips across different countries in Europe, driving some of the most famous cars made in each nation he visits. The first episode comes from Italy, where Paul takes a six-day journey with a different car for each day, beginning in Rome where he is joined by Strictly Come Dancing's Bruno Tonioli. **10.00** White Gold. **(R)** **10.30** Film: The Damned United. (2009) Fact-based drama. **12.00** Film: Easy Money II. (2012) **1.35** Sign Zone: Question Time. **(R) 2.35** Holy City. **(R) 3.35** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockor Street. **(R) 6.25** Sooty. **(R) 6.35** Signed Stories: Share a Story. **(R) 6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **(R) 6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **(R) 7.00** Oddbods. **(R) 7.05** Super 4. **(R) 7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **(R) 7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. **(R) 8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. **(R) 10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Judge Rinder. **(R) 11.55** Judge Rinder. **(R) 1.00** ITV News; Weather. **1.05** Tipping Point. **(R) 2.05** The Chase. **(R) 3.05** Britain's Got Talent. **(R) 4.15** Film: The Spy Who Loved Me. (1977) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore. **6.40** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.45** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** Bigheads. Jason Manford hosts the comedy game show in which the winning contestants from the past five episodes return to compete in a final series of bizarre physical challenges while wearing giant model heads of celebrities, with a convertible car as the grand prize. With commentary from Jenny Powell and Kris Akabusi. Last in the series. **8.00** The Durrells. The family's maid goes into labour, so Leslie sends Larry to fetch Dr Petrides. However, he finds the doctor occupied, as he is in the middle of delivering his own wife's baby. Hugh has a proposition for a startled Leonora, which she promises to think about - but an altercation with Vasilisa nearly ends in tragedy for them both. Donald attacks a rival suitor for Margo - who finds herself quite delighted by the thought of two men fighting over her - while Theo and Gerry make a discovery at the others' den. Last in the series. **9.00** Grantchester. Sidney resolves to resign from the church so he can marry Amanda. However, a child abduction and Geordie's family problems make him see how much he is needed. Last in the series. **10.00** ITV News; Weather. **10.20** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine. **(R)** **11.20** Premiership Rugby Union. **12.15** Lethal Weapon. **(R) 1.00** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV NightScreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R)**

CHANNEL 4

7.30 Frasier. **(R) 8.00** Frasier. **(R) 8.30** Frasier. **(R) 9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Live Build-Up. Previewing the sixth round of the season. **12.35** Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the sixth round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.10** Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Live Reaction. A review of the sixth round of the season. **4.30** World's Most Expensive Cars. **5.30** George Clarke's Old House, New Home. **(R)** **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** The Supertet. Noel Fitzpatrick and his team return to provide more cutting-edge animal care. The professor's first patient is labradoodle Mitzi, who has been hit by a car - and Noel's biggest concern is that she may have suffered nerve damage, leaving her owners fearing the worst. Options are limited for 10-month-old German pointer Hector, who is struggling to walk - he must undergo spinal surgery or face the prospect of being put to sleep, while a Leonberger with a cancerous leg undergoes an operation to remove the tumour. **(R)** **8.00** Cabins in the Wild with Dick Strawbridge. Dick Strawbridge and Will Hardie visit a cabin inspired by a national coal pit and a modernist design made entirely from slate. Plus, a look at an airship-inspired cabin in Sussex. **9.00** The Handmaid's Tale. New series. Dystopian drama based on Margaret Atwood's novel about a future American theocracy, starring Elisabeth Moss as a woman who is kept as a slave purely for breeding. **10.15** Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. **(R)** **11.15** Micky Flanagan: Back in the Game. The comedian performs to his home crowd at London's Hackney Empire, regaling his audience with tales of middle age, marriage and a man's prerogative. **(R)** **12.50** Amie's Greatest Ever Stunts. The actor examines the most spectacular stunts committed to film, ranking Hollywood set-pieces alongside standalone feats such as Felix Baumgartner's free fall to Earth. **(R) 2.15** Film: Blue Ruin. (2014) **3.50** Location, Location, Location. **(R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Mr Men. **(R) 6.15** Peppa Pig. **(R) 6.20** Peppa Pig. **(R) 6.25** Wisper. **(R) 6.35** Paw Patrol. **(R) 6.45** Bob the Builder. **(R) 7.00** Fireman Sam. **(R) 7.10** Only the Little White Van. **(R) 7.15** Only the Little White Van. **(R) 7.20** Paw Patrol. **7.45** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **(R) 8.05** Noddy: Toyland Detective. **(R) 8.25** Wisper. **(R) 8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. **(R) 8.50** Shimmer and Shine. **(R) 9.05** Little Princess. **(R) 9.20** Peppa Pig. **(R) 9.30** Peppa Pig. **(R) 9.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. **(R) 9.50** The Fairly OddParents. **(R) 10.25** The Gadget Show. **(R) 11.20** Police Interceptors. **(R) 12.20** Police Interceptors. **(R) 1.15** Police Interceptors: Under Attack. **(R) 2.15** Film: Open Season 3. (2010) Animated adventure, with the voice of Matthew J. Munn. **3.45** Film: Pudsey the Dog: The Movie. (2014) Family comedy, starring Jessica Hynes. **5.30** Most Shocking Talent Show Moments. **(R)** **7.55** 5 News Weekend. **8.00** Holidays Make You Laugh Out Loud. Iain Lee narrates a compilation of internet videos involving holidays, including a daily sprint for the sunbeds and a man who thought he was filming Las Vegas but actually had the camera pointed at himself. Featuring contributions from comedians Dave Spilkey, Zoe Lyons and David Mills. **9.00** When Kids TV Goes Horribly Wrong. Andi Peters narrates a compilation of classic children's TV mishaps, featuring contributions from presenters including Sarah Greene, Sally James, Pat Sharp, Gaz Top, Toby Anstis, as well as John Leeson, the actor who played Rainbow's giant teddy bear Bungle, and who remembers his terrifying original costume. Plus, a campfire burning out of control in the Blue Peter studio and some inappropriate adverts. **12.00** Football on 5: The Play-offs. **12.25** Dumb Drivers: Caught in the Act. Footage of motorists and motorcyclists getting into all sorts of scrapes. **(R) 1.15** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Top 20 Funniest. A countdown of the funniest video clips in America. **(R) 3.55** Access. **(R) 4.00** World's Most Pampered Pets. Documentary about standalone feats such as Felix Baumgartner's free fall to Earth. **(R) 2.15** Film: Blue Ruin. (2014) **3.50** Location, Location, Location. **(R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Perfect Pianists at the BBC **8.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend: Highlights **9.10** Kings of Leon Live at Radio 1's Big Weekend **10.00** Arena: American Epic **11.00** Blues at the BBC **12.00** The Man Who Brought the Blues to Britain: Big Bill Broonzy **1.00** Jago: A Life Underwater **1.50** Nature's Great Events **2.50** Engineering Giants: Jumbo Jet Strip-Down **3.50** Close **ITV2**
11.50 Take Me Out **1.05** Film: Richie Rich (1994) **2.10** FYI Daily **2.15** Film: Richie Rich (1994) **2.55** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **4.40** Britain's Got Talent **6.00** Britain's Got More Talent **7.00** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **9.00** Take Me Out - The Gossip **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Through the Keyhole **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 NightScreen **ITV3**
12.15 Film: Carry On Loving (1970) **1.15** FYI Daily **1.20** Film: Carry On Loving (1970) **2.10** Film: Columbo: The Most Crucial Game (1972) **3.45** Foyle's War **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Royal Stories **9.00** Kate: The Making of a Modern Queen **10.05** Law & Order: UK **12.05** Wire in the Blood **3.25** May the Best House Win **5.05** In Loving Memory **5.30** ITV3 NightScreen **ITV4**
9.00 Film: Last Man Standing (1996) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Last Man Standing (1996) **11.05** Film: United 93 (2006) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** Film: United 93 (2006) **1.10** Premiership Rugby Union **2.15** Tommy Cooper **2.50** ITV4 NightScreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
1.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** New Girl **2.30** Rude (ish) Tube Shorts **2.50** Film: A Turtle's Tale: Sammy's Adventures (2010) **4.30** Film: Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Rude Tube **11.00** 8 Out of 10 Cats **11.55** Tattoo Fixers **2.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.50** Rude Tube **3.40** Hollyoaks **Film4**
11.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) **1.00** Thunderbirds Are Go! (1966) **2.55** The Dark Crystal (1982) **4.40** Small Soldiers (1998) **6.45** The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013) **9.00** 2 Guns (2013) **11.10** Odd Thomas (2013) **1.00** A Girl at My Door (2014) **3.30** Close

ASHWOOD NURSERIES

NURSERY | TEA ROOM | GIFT SHOP MAIL ORDER

Spring into Summer

1st May-30th June

Create a garden full of **COLOUR**

Beautiful seasonal flowering plants in the spotlight

Lots of special offers & promotions on selected garden sundries available throughout May & June

Come and visit us... we are situated just off the A449, 1 mile south of Wall Heath, follow the brown tourist signs

- Beautiful Plants & Nursery
- Garden Shop & Gift Shop
- Tea Room (Open 9:45am - 4:45pm daily)
- Outdoor Children's Play Area

John's Garden Charity Open Day
Saturday 3rd June
10am-4pm | £5 entrance

Also in the garden
SONGS FROM THE SHOWS 2-3PM*
performed by members of Stourbridge Operatic Company, a musical tribute to the late Margaret Morgan, Ashwood's much-loved volunteer and long-serving member of Stourbridge Operatic

All proceeds donated to The Beacon Centre
For further info please call us or visit our website
*performance weather permitting

ASHWOODNURSERIES.COM

Ashwood Nurseries, Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford, DY6 0AE Tel: 01384 401996
Open Mon to Sat 8.30am - 5.30pm & Sundays: 9am - 5.30pm

Sunbeach Holiday Park, Llwyngwrl, Gwynedd, Wales, LL37 2QQ

t: 01341 250263
e: sunbeach@allenscaravans.com

Massive Complex Refurb with Indoor Pool & Splash Area, Soft Play, Games Room, Adventure Playground, Shop, Restaurant and Bar.

Also on Park is a Boat Park, Own Beach and it's Open 11 Months

www.AllensCaravans.com

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Song for Marion, BBC2, 10.30pm
A grouchy old man has always been dismissive of his wife's role in the unconventional local choir. When she is diagnosed with a terminal illness and is no longer able to sing, he reluctantly agrees to take her place, a decision that dramatically changes his life and helps him through the hard times to come. Comedy drama, with Terence Stamp, Gemma Arterton, Vanessa Redgrave and Christopher Eccleston. (2012)

TUESDAY
Diana, Channel 5, 11.05pm
Fact-based drama following the Princess of Wales in the last two years of her life. Under constant media scrutiny, she finds a new public role for herself as a patron of humanitarian causes, while secretly conducting a passionate affair with a Pakistani heart surgeon. Starring Naomi Watts and Naveen Andrews. (2013)



Sliding Doors, Friday, BBC1, 11.25pm

WEDNESDAY
Saved from Sorrow: Mysterious Grace, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A retired police officer, despondent over the deaths of his family, meets a mysterious woman who through her personal stories gives him a reason to rethink what is most important to him. Drama, starring Joey Lawrence, Robin Riker, Muse Watson and Catalina Rodriguez. (2016)

THURSDAY
Alone in the Wild: Deadly Survival, Channel 5, 3.15pm
After a plane crash leaves them stranded in the Canadian wilderness, young siblings Hannah and Zach battle all that nature has to throw at them. Alongside trusty dog Chinook, the duo face bears, wolves and a raging wildfire in their bid to find safety. Family drama, starring Natasha Henstridge. (2013)

FRIDAY
Sliding Doors, BBC1, 11.25pm
A London woman's entire future hinges on a seemingly minor but pivotal moment. Comedy drama, presenting two versions of a character's life, starring Gwyneth Paltrow and John Hannah. (1998)

Feeling the strain of a life in the media spotlight

Decades before Donald Trump blurred the lines between politics and pop culture, the Kennedys were America's obsession.

They have everything that the tabloids and gossip writers could want in a family – politics, extraordinary wealth and copious scandals, which makes it easy to see why people continue to crave as much information about them as they can get their hands on.

Of course, there have been countless movies and TV series made about their lives over the years, including, notably, 2016's biographical film Jackie, which earned Natalie Portman an Oscar nomination for Best Actress.

However, not all depictions of the clan have been as well received.

Back in 2011, TV mini-series The Kennedys was slammed even before it aired for taking a sensationalist approach to the story of JFK (Greg Kinnear), his wife Jackie (Katie Holmes), brother Robert (Barry Pepper) and patriarch Joseph (Tom Wilkinson).

Nevertheless, it was a ratings success for broadcaster ReelzChannel, and some critics even came round – Pepper won an Emmy for his performance.

Tonight, the show's sequel The Kennedys: Decline and Fall is premiered on UK TV.

The drama (which was called The Kennedys – After Camelot in the US) is based on a book by J Randy Taraborrelli and picks up in the wake of Bobby's 1968 assassination and goes all the way through to 1994.

Jackie (again played by Holmes, who also directed part of it) is again in mourning, and sniping breaks out between her and the newly widowed Ethel (Kristin Booth).

Robert's brother Ted (the almost unrecognisable Matthew Perry, complete with fake ears, a fake nose and wavy-haired wig) is seen delivering part of the famous eulogy for Bobby.

Indeed, much of the drama focuses on Ted and revisits the awful death of a young woman

named Mary Jo Kopechne, in 1969.

Ted, then a US Senator for Massachusetts, had been at a party with Kopechne and others on the island of Chappaquiddick, on Martha's Vineyard.

Kennedy was behind the wheel in his car with Kopechne when he accidentally drove off a bridge into a pond. Ted escaped, but Kopechne stayed trapped inside the car.

His conduct after the incident, reports of his drinking, women-chasing and controversy surrounding Kopechne's death essentially doomed Kennedy's chances of becoming President himself.

Throughout the drama, we see Ted struggling with the pressure to live up to his brothers' legacies and with his own personal inadequacies.

The second storyline in Decline and Fall has Jackie questioning her tenuous position within the Kennedy family, while also being wooed by and wedding Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis (Alexander Siddig).



The Kennedys: Decline and Fall, Monday, Channel 5, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
May v Corbyn Live: The Battle for Number 10 Channel 4, 8.30pm

A lot has been made about Theresa May's decision not to participate in a live debate with Jeremy Corbyn and the other leaders of the UK's main political parties ahead of next week's General Election. However, the Prime Minister is not in for an easy ride tonight. In this show, broadcast simultaneously on Channel 4 and Sky News, May and Corbyn will both face questions from the audience via Sky News Political Editor Faisal Islam. Then, in between each Q&A segment, both of the leaders will be interviewed by former Newsnight presenter Jeremy Paxman. If you miss tonight's show, May and Corbyn will be seen on our screens again in a BBC Question Time Special, presented by David Dimbleby, on Friday.

TUESDAY
Grayson Perry: Divided Britain Channel 4, 9pm

You can't beat a Grayson Perry documentary – and that was something nobody thought they would ever hear when he began making programmes for Channel 4. After all, he was a potter, not a filmmaker, but he's done the broadcaster proud, devising numerous enthralling shows on a range of

subjects – and this promises to be just as good as its predecessors. In January, he asked viewers to contribute to the making of two pots by asking them their thoughts on Brexit. These were submitted via Twitter, and now we're getting an opportunity to find out how Perry has used them. Not that he's been keeping it a secret – his social media followers have been treated to sneak previews over the weeks, but now we'll be seeing them for the first time in all their glory.

WEDNESDAY
Fargo Channel 4, 10pm

The Coen brothers couldn't possibly have imagined that their Oscar-nominated drama set in the snowy wastes of Minnesota would go on to spawn three TV series, but thank goodness it has because the small screen version of Fargo has been a real treat. Each run features new stories and characters, and the latest stars Ewan McGregor in the dual role of brothers Ray and Emmet Stussy. The latter is the state's Parking Lot King, a slick, self-made property mogul and family man; Ray, meanwhile, is a different kettle of fish altogether. Pot-bellied and

balding, he's a parole officer with a chip on his shoulder about the hand in life he's been dealt and blames his sibling for all his problems. There is no love lost between the brothers, and their rivalry is about to wreak havoc in their small town.

THURSDAY
Frank Skinner on Muhammad Ali BBC1, 9pm

Last year, millions of fans around the world mourned the passing of Muhammad Ali whose fame and charisma transcended boxing. One of those who grieved him was comedian Frank Skinner, who now gets a chance to pay tribute to his idol with this documentary. Skinner travels across the UK and the US to visit some of the key locations and people in Ali's life, from the next-door neighbour



Frank Skinner on Muhammad Ali, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

from Louisville, Kentucky, who witnessed the teenager boxer's dedication to his craft, to a bare-knuckle fighter on an Oxfordshire council estate who became one of his dearest friends. Along the way, Skinner learns more about some of the lesser known chapters in Ali's story and finds out just why he became an icon of the civil rights movement and arguably the greatest sporting hero of the 20th-century.

FRIDAY
Question Time Leaders' Special BBC1, 8.30pm

With less than a week to go to the General Election, time is running out for the country's politicians to get their points and policies across to the British people. In this programme, which could turn out to be one of the defining moments of the campaign, Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn will feature on the same prime-time edition of Question Time in York. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition won't be on screen at the same time, but they will be quizzed by the same audience – and David Dimbleby – consecutively. The veteran host will also be in Edinburgh on Sunday, where he will be chairing a second special with Liberal Democrat Tim Farron and the SNP's Nicola Sturgeon.

USE YOUR LOFT!

Bison

Loft Ladders

Access your loft safely and easily with Bison loft stairs. A "gas" strut mechanism requiring just fingertip control makes opening and closing your loft stairs exceptionally easy.

- Fully manufactured by us in the Midlands
- Free Survey
- 'Bison' loft ladders, only available from us
- Full 4 year parts & labour guarantee
- The only product available with a safety handle in the loft
- Fitted in approx 2 hours (including making the opening larger)
- NEW: Now available in white no painting required*
- NEW: Now complete with "comfort" feet to protect carpets and wooden floors.

Over 10,000 Installations

NEW: Long Safety Side Handles*

*at extra cost

We also fit loft flooring, lighting and roof windows. All major credit cards accepted

£395 Special offer for limited time

£299 (incl VAT) Quote Ref ZZ

the**loft**stairs**company**

The Loft Stairs Company, Unit 60, Aitcham Industrial Estate, Shrewsbury SY4 4UG
Visit our website www.theloftstairscompany.co.uk
Freephone 0800 389 1281
or mobile friendly 01743 761499

SAFELY ACCESS YOUR LOFT!

for only **£399** Fully Fitted

This price is for a standard height ceiling with an 8ft drop, width 22-30"

Manufactured to ISO 9002 Standard

- We provide a convenient and safe way to access your loft.
- Each ladder has a 10 year parts guarantee and can be installed in approx. 2-3 hours.
- We offer a loft boarding service if required at an additional cost.

JAKES'D LADDERS

The Local Distributor & Installer for **STIRA**

For more information visit: www.stira.co.uk

CALL TO ARRANGE A FREE QUOTE
T: 01952 282152 or 07817 431505

WORLD OF MOBILITY

We have a selection of New and Used Scooters
Stairlifts fully installed, new riser recliners, new wheelchairs and a large selection of daily living aids
We also do servicing and repairs!

FREE PAIR OF SANDPIPER SLIPPERS WITH EVERY RISER RECLINER PURCHASED (1 & 2 seater)

01384 378252 Open Mon-Sat
FREE PARKING at our Showrooms 130G Brentford Lane, Ambleside, Sharncliffe, DY9 4BS
We offer excellent customer service and aftercare on all our products

Express & Star
MOST POPULAR
PUB
of the
YEAR
2017

Express & Star

PUB OF THE YEAR IS BACK

TO BE IN WITH A CHANCE OF WINNING CALL:

Wolverhampton Region: Luke Durnall on 01902 319691	Dudley Region: Marina Gibbons on 01902 319641	Mid Staffs Region: Debbie Tavner on 01543 465333	Sandwell Region: Dan Eccles on 01384 353227	Walsall Region: Sharon Oscar on 01543 465335
---	--	---	--	---

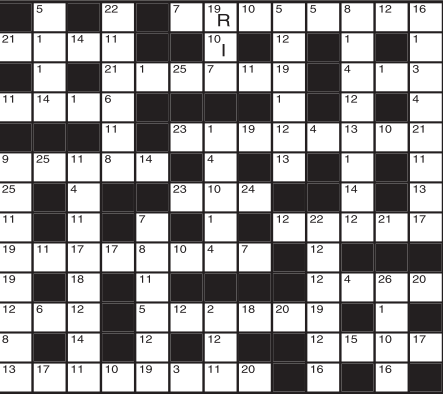
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

BRAIN GYM

No.431

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	K	Z	P	E	W	L	F	V	H	I	J	A	Q
14	M	C	U	S	Y	D	O	T	N	G	B	R	X

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

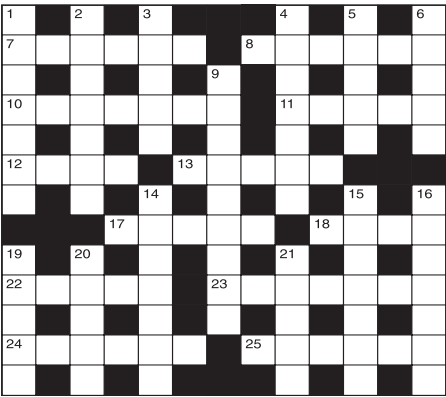
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Freedom from anxiety shown by some cartographers (6)
- Give the fellow a blend of tea (6)
- I've lost various flowers (7)
- Particular positions that will produce spectacles, we hear (5)
- This tide occurs at dusk (4)
- Footwear establishing a record in the Civil Service! (5)
- A steel fastener put back for the creeper (5)
- 20Dn. Suffer twinges but work with great care (4,5)
- Father put back the top card quickly (5)
- Came out in spots (7)
- Used by the artist when camping (6)
- Dislodged from a high perch, one hears (6)

Down

- Foresight? (7)
- Everything still outstanding is not banned (7)
- Revolutionary film about the capital of Bulgaria (5)
- So Grace redesigned the bouquet (7)
- See 14 Down
- Lets a minimum change take place (5)
- Needs a pal for a seaside walk (9)
- 14 & 5Dn. Generous celebration for political group (7,5)
- Whaling equipment - an instrument with a ring on (7)
- 16 & 21Dn. Chief illumination for pre-eminent personage (7,5)
- It's not plain imagination (5)
- See 18 Across
- See 16 Down



Quick Clues:

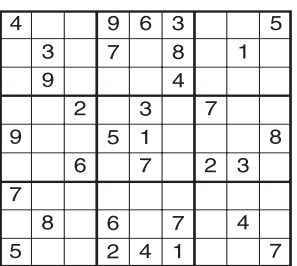
Across

- Gateway (6)
- Roar (6)
- To storm (7)
- Domestic task (5)
- Too (4)
- Blithe (5)
- Angry (5)
- Measure (4)
- Water lily (5)
- Upshot (7)
- Coincide (6)
- Brandy (6)

Down

- Ascetic (7)
- Assure (7)
- Mortal (5)
- Quicksilver (7)
- Blossom (5)
- Proprietor (5)
- Desertion (9)
- Off-hand (7)
- Tell (7)
- Protection (7)
- Remiss (5)
- Expiate (5)
- Bench (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	9	7	8	3	2	4	6	1
2	1	3	6	4	9	5	7	8
6	8	4	7	1	5	9	3	2
9	6	1	4	8	3	2	5	7
7	3	5	2	9	6	8	1	4
8	4	2	1	5	7	3	9	6
3	2	8	9	6	1	7	4	5
1	7	9	5	2	4	6	8	3
4	5	6	3	7	8	1	2	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Stall; 4 Ash pits; 8 Inmates; 9 Tripe; 10 Mile; 11 Relation; 13 Dolt; 14 Deal; 16 Gestured; 17 Idle; 20 Sward; 21 Get into; 22 Set free; 23 Great. Down: 1 Seismologists; 2 Admit; 3 Lute; 4 Answer; 5 Hot water; 6 Initial; 7 Stern-foremost; 12 Flounder; 13 Distant; 15 Beagle; 18 Dense; 19 Stag. QUICK - Across: 1 Decor; 4 Painter; 8 Flatter; 9 Charm; 10 Ewer; 11 Horseman; 13 Earn; 14 Foul; 16 Transfer; 17 Glee; 20 Agate; 21 Titanic; 22 Erector; 23 Press. Down: 1 Differentiate; 2 Chase; 3 Rota; 4 Parson; 5 Incision; 6 Trammel; 7 Reminiscences; 12 Prospect; 13 Emanate; 15 Letter; 18 Lance; 19 Stop.

Quiz

- Of which African country is Brazzaville the capital?
- Which Greek letter represents the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter?
- Which Norwegian composer had the middle name Hagerup?
- With which sport is the English Leander Club associated?
- Which French author wrote The Human Comedy series of novels?
- What type of animal is a porcupine?
- Which poet laureate wrote The Fair Penitent?
- Membership of which body allows MPs to be called Right Honourable?
- What nationality was Ivor Novello?
- Who directed the controversial film Natural Born Killers?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Raven; 2 Darwin; 3 Tin; 4 Thistle; 5 Grozny; 6 11 Downing Street; 7 The Brown Bomber; 8 Muslin; 9 Northwest Passage; 10 Tony award. Niner: TINDERBOX

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

639972
7681245
74572

gives a country,
gives a second country,
gives a third country.

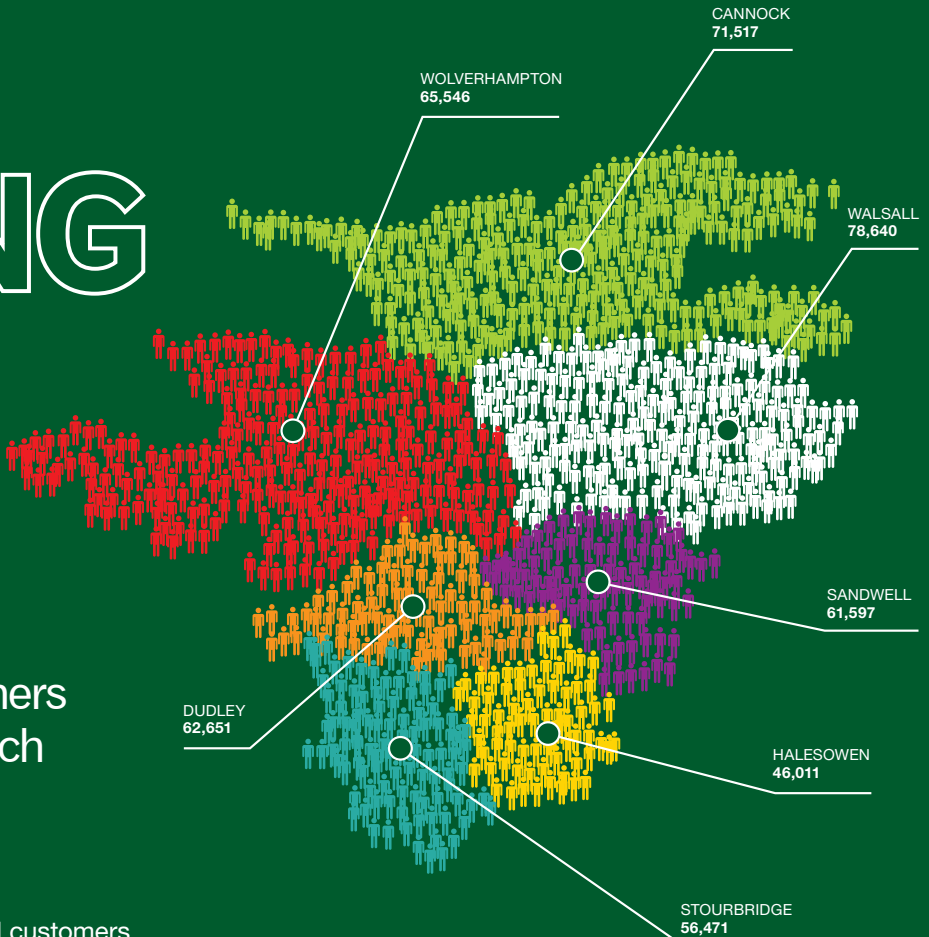


CHRONICLE

REACHING MORE PEOPLE

With over **440,000** potential customers every week, you can be sure to reach your target audience at anytime.

The Chronicle offers an unrivalled platform to reach local customers. To find out how our advertising sales team can help your business call **01902 313131**.



Dino diner is a roaring success

When our daughter arrived on this Earth, the small print said she'd be into dinosaurs.

That's what we were led to believe when she was handed to us at the hospital. Cradling our little girl, my other half hummed the theme tune to Jurassic Park into her ear, in the hope that his lifelong love affair with the Steven Spielberg blockbuster would be passed down to her subconsciously.

However, 15 months on, and Edie has yet to spark an interest in pre-historic beasts. And her lack of enthusiasm was never more evident as we walked around West Midland Safari Park's excellent Land of the Living Dinosaurs. So, in a last ditch attempt to spark some pre-historic magic, we headed over to the Dino Diner for some lunch because if anything's going to inspire our kid, it's food.

TROPICAL

Entering through a giant bone carcass, it has a pre-historic cave-like interior with moody lighting and tropical plants. The only thing missing was the Jurassic Park soundtrack. Or even some T-Rex. Get It On, I say.

Welcomed by a sunny member of staff in safari-style gear, we were shown to a table and invited to order food and drinks at the counter. After a bit of a false start due to a fire alarm and the restaurant being evacuated, we reconvened to decide on our food choices.

The menu makes an amusing read. Carnivores are well-catered for; there's Rex's Lunch – a lamb shank in red wine sauce with mashed potatoes – or a Predator Platter comprising half a chicken, rack of ribs and sides.

Herbivores can tuck into the Bronto Balti – a vegan sweet potato balti, while skinniovers (dieters) can opt for the Raptor Salad of piri piri chicken, mixed leaves, sweet potato and quinoa. Little people have loads of choice too – there's not a Bernard Matthews breaded turkey

The entrance to the Dino Diner



Sandwich filler – served with salad and crisps



The diner interior at West Midland Safari Park



dinosaur in sight, as options include sausage, mash and peas, and pasta bolognese. There's please-all side orders too, like onion rings and cheesy dough balls.

In the interest of giving the menu a fair run we ordered a raft of food including the barbecue pulled pork-loaded nachos, the raptor salad and volcanic skillet fajita. Oh, and a diddy dino sweet potato balti with rice for the little one on the basis that we fancied trying it too. Our meals arrived promptly and looked freshly-cooked and appealing. The bill came to just over £36. Most disappointing in terms of value for money was the

kid's sweet potato balti which, at £6, came in a meagre portion of brownish mush on top of plain white rice. Edie was as interested in it as she was the dinosaur trail.

She was rather enamoured by the barbecue pulled pork-topped nachos, though. In fact, it proved a hit with us all; we attacked it like a pack of predatory pterodactyl at a buffalo meat buffet.

The fajitas were well presented with a separate skillet of sizzling chicken breast, mixed peppers and onions in a sauce as spiky as a stegosaurus's spine, and a pile of soft tortilla wraps. The raptor salad provided

some much-needed crunch, packed with a few unusual ingredients such as sugar snap peas and slices of sweet red pepper. Two skewers of chicken thigh meat drizzled in a sweet chilli sauce were moist and pleasantly charred and accompanied by red pepper hummus and tortilla wrap. We polished off most of the food despite ordering far too much.

Our little girl might have been unimpressed with the 65- million-year-old dinosaurs but the food was a roaring success.

By Emily Bridgewater

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind



Return coach travel from Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge*

*Please note: Not all pickup points are available on all breaks.

Your Chronicle

In association with
Omega
The Travel Association

LONDON'S WINTER WONDERLAND

Saturday departures,
18 November & 16 December 2017

London's Hyde Park transforms this November into a dazzling spectacle of sparkle, with 200+ Christmas Market stalls, ice rink, ice kingdom, circuses, Big Wheel, even a cocktail bar made of ice. Join us on this great-value Omega break and make your weekend a walk in the park!

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with full English breakfast
- ✓ Return transfer from hotel to Hyde Park
- ✓ Free time in London on Sunday



2 days, by coach

Only **£99**.95pp

Quote Code: UYY408



View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/UYY408

Single room supplement £30pp. Subject to availability.

LONDON EYE & THAMES RIVER CRUISE



Quote Code: VGU182

Saturday departures, 12 August,
2 September & 21 October 2017

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
- ✓ A flight on the London Eye
- ✓ A cruise on the River Thames
- ✓ Free time in London

2 days, by coach

only **£149**.95pp

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/VGU182

Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

THE TOWER of London



Quote Code: GEX589

Selected Saturday departures,
September - December 2017

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
- ✓ Admission to the Tower of London
- ✓ Free time in London

2 days, by coach

only **£139**.95pp

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/GEX589

Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

For more information or to book, please call: **01902 902165**

OPENING TIMES: MON-FRI 8.30-19.00
SAT 8.30-16.00 SUN 10.00-16.00

Organised by Omega Holidays plc, ABTA V4782.



OmegaHols

@OmegaHols

OmegaHols

2-in-1 Telescopic Hose Brush Set

Only £21.99 Was £49.99

SAVE
£28



This 2-in-1 telescopic hose brush allows you to clean high windows and conservatories safely without the need to balance on a ladder.

Simply attach the pole to your standard hosepipe, fasten the window cleaning attachment, extend to the desired length and you can clean windows while keeping your feet firmly on the ground.

By switching to the brush head attachment you can also clean cars, caravans, patios, decking and garden furniture.

The pole extends from 134cm to 300cm. Weighs 1.8kg. Please note that at its longest extension the weight distribution will be affected and it may feel slightly heavier to operate.

D6986 2-in-1 telescopic hose brush set



SAVE
£10

Water Jet Adaptor

Only £14.99 Was £24.99

This simple to fit, cost effective hose pipe attachment quickly transforms your hosepipe into a highly effective jet washer. The durable, high quality design includes a stainless steel lance with a pressure adjusting tap and brass fittings. This simple to use tool is ideal for cleaning cars, boats, patios, walls and decking. It can also be used to clear gutters, drains and leaves and is ideal for blasting weeds from between paving slabs and paths.

Supplied with two brass head fittings that allow you switch between high pressure direct spraying and wide spray options with an additional extended flexible tip to gain access into hard to reach areas. Using the screw on brush head you can cut down on time needed to remove tough dirt and stains by combining the higher pressure water with a brush in one.

Measuring 77cm in length, the jet wash adaptor fits to your standard hose using a screw-in fitting with clip on attachment.

D9384 Water jet adaptor



Stone, Decking and Patio Cleaner

Only £8.99

This cleaning solution will combat years of dirt, grime, algae and stubborn stains with its technologically advanced formula. Simply spray or brush on and dirt, grime, algae, moss and micro-organisms on stonework, brick walls, masonry, gravestones, garden ornaments, steps, drives, paths, patios, concrete and monuments will begin to loosen. Wash off before it dries to reveal newly cleaned surfaces. Its invisible repelling barrier provides superior long term surface protection. Just one application will last up to 12 months, preventing any algae or moss re-growth and keeping your stonework looking pristine and clean all year round. Supplied in a one litre bottle.

D7265 Stone, decking and patio cleaner

BUY
TWO FOR
£14.99

SAVE
£20

Stainless Steel Weed Puller

Only £19.99
Was £39.99



Weed your garden with ease using this stainless steel weed puller. The long reach claws ensure roots are removed with the weed and the extended shaft with easy-grip holds means no more back aching work – simply place over the weed, press on the foot plate to push the claws into the ground and tilt up to grab the weed and roots securely.

This handy eco-friendly tool means you can remove weeds without harmful pesticides.

Measures W30 x H100cm with metal loop for hanging storage.

D9562 Weed puller



SAVE
UP TO
£25



Artificial Trellis Hedging

From Only £24.99
Was From £39.99

Instant cover for walls or unsightly bins and water butts. Made using polyester, polyethylene and willow these attractive low maintenance screens will look great in years to come.

The ivy trellis has large realistic green leaves and comes in, 1 x 2m and 0.7 x 2m sections. The evergreen and red maple trellis are available in 1 x 2m with groups of smaller leaves. All styles are waterproof and backed with 100% natural willow.

G1041 Artificial ivy hedge trellis 1x2m
£29.99 Was £49.99 Save £20

G1042 Artificial ivy hedge trellis 0.7x2m
£24.99 Was £39.99 Save £15

G1043 Artificial red maple hedge trellis 1x2m
£34.99 Was £59.99 Save £25

G1044 Artificial evergreen hedge trellis 1x2m
£34.99 Was £59.99 Save £25

Order Hotline 0871 911 7011*

*Calls cost 13p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Quote 73068

8am-8pm, 7 days a week
expressandstarshop.co.uk

Our 'was' pricing refers to the original selling prices offered on our website www.cjoffers.co.uk, and in our retail store between 13th February 2017 and 13th May 2017. Allow 7 working days for delivery. If not happy for any reason we will accept return of faulty/unused goods in sealed original packaging for full refund or replacement within 30 days. These goods are sold and supplied by BVG-Group Ltd. with whom you contract when you accept this offer. A SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED ON DELIVERY.

RETURN TO: EXPRESS & STAR (73068), PO BOX 87, BRECON, LD3 3BE

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____ Initial _____ Surname _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Email _____ Tel. (for queries only) _____

I enclose my cheque/PO made payable to BVG-GROUP LTD for £ _____ Or please debit my card £ _____ ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Maestro Issue No _____

My card number is: _____ Start date: ____/____/____ Expiry date: ____/____/____ Security Number: _____

*Midland News Association Ltd and other MNA companies or selected third parties may contact you with details of goods and services you may be interested in. By placing this order you give consent to Midland News Association Limited or selected third parties doing so, unless you have indicated your objection by ticking this box ☐ If you do not want to hear from selected third parties and ticking this box ☐ If you do not want to hear from Midland News Association Ltd.

PLEASE SEND ME	CODE(S)	QTY	SIZE	PRICE	TOTAL

POSTAGE CHARGES - Please insert as applicable					
Standard P&P	Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Highlands & Islands, BFPO	Channel Islands, Scilly Isles & Eire	Items marked	Items marked	Items marked
£4.95	£6.95	£10.95	£6.95**	£9.95**	£24.95**

POSTAGE TOTAL _____

**Due to product weight and courier limitations we are unable to deliver outside mainland UK, to Scottish Highlands, Isles or BFPO addresses.

Express & International Deliveries from £6.45

For customers ordering via the internet or telephone we offer a range, express and international delivery services. Please order online or telephone to use these services.

Hicks Hadley

hickshadley.com
0121 585 6667

Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



HALESOWEN, Hagley Road£1,300 pcm+Fees
A superbly presented detached family home in prime central location close to all amenities and comes part furnished. Featuring: entrance hallway, dining room, delightful lounge, conservatory, large refitted stunning breakfast/kitchen with centre island & integrated appliances, 4 bedrooms, master en-suite, house bathroom, landscaped rear garden, garage & driveway. EPC: D



SELLY OAK, Gristhorpe Road£850 pcm+Fees
PART FURNISHED. A three bedroom semi detached property situated in Selly Oak close to bus links to city centre, university & local shops. The property benefits from 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms, loft room, driveway, front & rear garden. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Lansdowne Road£750 pcm+Fees
A beautifully presented 3 bedroom semi detached house close to motorway links & local amenities. The property briefly comprises of: front lounge, back reception room, modern fitted kitchen with cooker/double oven, 2 double & 1 large single bedroom, family bathroom with separate shower, front & rear garden with large driveway. Early viewings are highly recommended. EPC: F



HALESOWEN, Whittingham Road£695 pcm+Fees
The best position for Newfield Primary School and Halesowen College. This large 3 bedroom semi-detached house features fitted kitchen with double oven and gas hob, utility room with new carpets throughout. Entrance hallway, large lounge with laminate flooring, fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath. Eco storage heating, pleasant rear garden with sheds & parking area. A must see property!! EPC: F



HALESOWEN, Beecher Street£695 pcm+Fees
A deceptively large unfurnished bungalow which is ideal for buses to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Birmingham and in the catchment area for Colley Lane Primary School. Featuring 3 bedrooms, a large lounge, modern fitted kitchen, new bathroom with shower. Benefits include central heating, double glazing, driveway parking. NO ACCESS TO THE LOFT. EPC: D



BARTLEY GREEN, Ludford Road£650 pcm+Fees
Located in the Woodgate area. Ideally situated for Woodgate Primary School. This newly decorated 3 large bedroom terraced house features fitted kitchen, large lounge, house bathroom with shower, separate w.c., rear garden with storage shed. EPC: D



ROWLEY REGIS, Lightfields Walk£625 pcm+Fees
A newly decorated 3 bedroom modern end terrace house with new carpets throughout. Entrance hallway, large lounge with laminate flooring, fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath. Eco storage heating, pleasant rear garden with sheds & parking area. A must see property!! EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Chiltern Close£625 pcm+Fees
A well presented 2 bedroom mid terraced house in this sought after area on the Squirrels Estate. The property is offered unfurnished and comprises of: lounge, fitted dining kitchen with fridge freezer, 2 bedrooms and bathroom with shower, low maintenance rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: C



BIRMINGHAM, St Pauls Place£600 pcm+Fees
A part furnished ground floor studio apartment in St Pauls Square. The apartment features access via secure concierge entrance, hallway, fitted bathroom suite with shower over bath, bedroom area with fitted wardrobes and chest of drawers, open plan kitchen/lounge area with sofa and fitted appliances, including fridge, oven, hob and washing machine. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Brett Young Close£575 pcm+Fees
An impressive ground floor apartment within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. This modern apartment features 2 double bedrooms, spacious open plan lounge/kitchen with built in washing machine and fridge freezer, bathroom with shower, allocating parking. Also benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Lodgefield Road£575 pcm+Fees
A lovely unfurnished semi detached house on a popular road. This home features 2 good size bedrooms, living room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, modern shower room, front & rear gardens with driveway parking. An opportunity not to be missed. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, School Lane£575 pcm+Fees
FURNISHED. A 2 bedroom cottage of immense character in the central Halesowen area is now available, front reception room featuring beamed ceiling, wooden floor, fireplace, country style kitchen with dining area, stairs leading to 1st floor double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, bathroom with corner bath and electric shower, 2nd floor double bedroom also with fitted wardrobes. Not to be missed. EPC: D



BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Road£550 pcm+Fees
A lovely modern back to back property within walking distance of Brierley Hill Town Centre. This property is available unfurnished or on a furnished basis for £595pcm. This 2 bed property features, fitted kitchen with appliances, lounge, shower room, 1 double bedroom and 1 single. Also benefits from one allocated parking space, decking and patio area to front of property. VIEWINGS HIGHLY RECOMMEND TO APPRECIATE THIS PROPERTY. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, The Forge £525 pcm+Fees
Part furnished or Unfurnished. A modern 2 bedroom semi detached property situated in a quiet cul de sac and within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station, bus links and shops. Featuring a great living room with sofas, kitchen with white goods, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, private rear garden, driveway, gas central heating. EPC: C



NETHERTON, Round Street£525 pcm+Fees
Beautifully presented and not to be missed. Set within a popular residential area, this unfurnished semi detached house comprises of a modern living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower and a conservatory. Benefits also include gas central heating, rear garden, driveway for 2 cars. EPC: D LANDLORD REQUIRES 12 MONTHS DEPOSIT AND A FAMILY MEMBER TO BE A GUARANTOR



AMBLESCOT, Villa Street £500 pcm+Fees
A beautiful ground floor modern apartment which can either be furnished or unfurnished. Newly available with open plan lounge/kitchen with modern range of fitted units, breakfast bar & integrated appliances, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with separate shower, 1 designated car parking space to rear of property, communal gardens. EPC: D



ROWLEY REGIS, The Grange£450 pcm+Fees
Located within minutes of Blackheath Town Centre. This lovely unfurnished ground floor apartment features electric storage heating, open plan living room/fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILL, King Street£450 pcm+Fees
Located in the heart of Old Hill. Ideally situated for local shops, buses and train links this unfurnished 1st floor modern apartment which comprises of 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with a small fridge and freezer, spacious lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



OLDBURY, Causeway Green Road£450 pcm+Fees
Deceptively large and spacious. A split level apartment above local shops, within walking distance to bus links for Langley and Oldbury and close to J2 of the M5 comprises gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, with the added bonus of a porch, unfurnished. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Mount Street£425 pcm+Fees
Centrally located and within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre is this spacious split level flat. Featuring 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, bathroom with shower over bath, gas central heating, double glazing, on road parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Pippin Avenue£425 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished, modern, spacious ground floor flat on this popular estate and briefly comprising: open plan living room/ fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, full double glazing, parking space. MINIMUM CONTRACT OF 12 MONTHS. EPC: D

PROPERTY



Traditional semi is spacious and has been extended

An incredibly deceptively spacious and substantially extended traditional semi-detached property, 25 Dudley Road, Kingswinford, is set back behind a very large block paved driveway.

Also having a good-sized and beautifully laid out private rear garden with a large workshop/store, it is for sale through Taylors at

KINGSWINFORD

£210,000

£210,000. With double glazing and gas central heating, its generous layout includes an entrance porch, a reception hall, a large full depth sitting room, a ground floor shower room, and a 'stunning' luxury re-fitted breakfast kitchen with

appliances. To the first floor there are three large bedrooms, with bedroom three having been substantially extended, and a modern bathroom.

Having been re-fitted, the stunning family dining kitchen is beautifully appointed with a superb range of soft closing units with worktops.

Contact Taylors on 01384 401777, or email kingswinford@taylorsestateagents.co.uk

Three-bed town house newly put on the market

HALESOWEN

£195,000

>>>

New to the property market, this tastefully presented three-bedroomed town house in Spring Walk, Halesowen, lies in a quiet cul-de-sac location.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £195,000 with no chain.

Having three floors the property has a reception hall, a large ground floor reception/ dining room with access to a garage and downstairs cloakroom.

The first floor has a large lounge with panoramic views, a kitchen/breakfast room and a shower room. The second floor comprises the master bedroom and a further two bedrooms.

For details contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667.



Local Specialists

Builders

D H Household Maintenance

All building maintenance and DIY work undertaken
All areas covered
0121 422 8594
07985 548466

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

CLEANCARE Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners

Fully Trained
Insured
Est: over 12 years
Friendly service
For free quotes
Call
(07816) 817744
Tel: 0121 503 0854

Carpentry

CARPENTRY SERVICES

ROBERT CHESNEY
CARPENTRY / JOINERY

KITCHEN FITTING SPECIALIST
ALL CARPENTRY WORKS
ROOFS / DOORS / LOCKS
DECKING SPECIALIST
CALL NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE
0121 421 6740
07779746939

Computers

NEED ADVICE ON COMPUTING?

• All PC Problems Resolved • Software & Hardware Installed
• Virus & Spyware Removed • PC Health Checks
• Home Network Implemented • Internet Connections Installed
DONT BE FOOLED INTO THINKING YOU NEED A NEW PC
Call: **0121 422 7646** or: **07970 846 552**
JUDRAP PC SUPPORT
email: support@judrap.com www.judrap.com

Driveways

DISCOUNT DRIVEWAYS

Block Paving and Tarmac
Drives • Paths • Patios
Slabbing • Red Tarmac
Car Parks

5 Year Guarantee
On All Work

Free Quotations and Advice

Tel: 01384 79900 • 07583 170190
www.discountdriveways.co.uk

Driveways & Patios

JDC Driveways & Patios

Tarmac, Block Paving,
Turf Laying, Graveling,
Fencing, Drainage and
Pressure Cleaning

Free quotation
No obligation

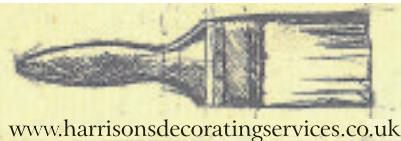
01384 466950 /
07944883248
www.jdclandscapes.co.uk

Cressage Paving

Specialists in:
Block Paving, Tarmac,
Landscaping, Graveling,
Patios, Forecourts,
Fencing and Driveways
All Groundwork undertaken
FREE WRITTEN QUOTATION

Mini Digger &
Driver available
01384 944032
Mob: 07879 073702
www.cressage-group.co.uk

Decorating



HARRISONS PAINTING & DECORATING

Commercial & Residential Work Undertaken
• Painting • Tiling • Kitchens
• Paperhanging • Flooring • Bathrooms
Call Nick: **07792865975**
nkharrison@btinternet.com
Fully Insured - Quality Finishing - Reasonable Rates

MJD Painter & Decorator Interior & Exterior

Special discounts for OAP's
Free Quotes - Fully Insured
Commercial Work Undertaken
No job too small
Give Mick a Call
Tel: **07889923896**
Michael.J.Downing@hotmail.co.uk

PAINTER & DECORATOR

Professional and reliable
Fully insured
O.A.P Discounts
For a free
quote call Carl
0121 561 1881
or **07532 200591**

HALESOWEN DECORATORS

Painters &
Decorators
OAP DISCOUNT
AVAILABLE
10% OFF with this advert
Residential and
Commercial work undertaken
CALL **07860 206713**
0121 602 0966
halesowendecorators@gmail.com

Double Glazing

Misted Sealed Units?

Black Country Glazing

Contact **US** for a **FREE** quote!

Manufacturers
& Installers of
windows, doors &
conservatories

'A' Rated Windows as Standard
10 YEAR GUARANTEE

Please see our customer reviews
on either Homepro or Which

“Energy efficient windows
that won't cost the earth”

Station Street, Cradley Heath, B64 6AJ

Est **1987** **01384 566100**
www.blackcountryglazing.com



Electricians

J S QUALITY ELECTRICAL SERVICES LTD

Fuseboard upgrades / complete rewires /
security alarms and lighting / fault finding and repairs /
shower replacements and more
Free quotations available
Over 20 years' experience

Contact now:
0121 531 6884 / 07753 393562
www.jsqualityelectrical.co.uk
j.selectricalservices@hotmail.co.uk

Spring
Deals now
on - call
for more
information

ELECTRICIAN Fully guaranteed work Honest reliable service

**ANT
ELECTRIC**
Ring Tony or Julie on
07974 428 603
KEEP IT LOCAL
'No Job Too Small'

MB electric
All domestic and commercial
electrical works undertaken
Home rewiring from £800
For a high quality
local service call:
0121 3690311
07939 503905
mbelectric.co.uk

**Local
Specialists**

Fencing

LBT Fencing

All types of quality
fencing supplied
& erected
Plus decking,
slabbing &
block paving
FREE QUOTES
Tel: **0121 585 9992** or **07884 344616**
www.lbtffencing.co.uk

Fencing & Gates

All Garden Work Undertaken
• Slabbing • Block Paving • Tree Felling
• Turfing • Garden Clearance
NO JOB TOO SMALL
Manufacturers of all Concrete Products
eg. Concrete Posts, Gravel Boards
All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken
Over 15 years experience (Public liability covered)
Call Steve on
01384 242891 or **07970 300586**

Flooring

Arnold Laver

Quality Timber
for your
home & garden
projects!

All lengths available

Oldbury
Dudley Road
Oldbury
Birmingham
West Midlands
B69 3DA

T: **0121 552 7788**
F: **0121 544 7186**
E: birmingham@laver.co.uk

Gardening

ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES LTD

*Tree Surgeon Specialist *Stump Grinding/Root Removal
*Hedges Pruned/Shaped *Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
*Fencing *Turfing *Concreting *Driveways & Patios
*Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation Quotation
WWW.ROWANGROUP.CO.UK
01384 213644 or **07733 226568**

AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified,
Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) All staff C.R.B. Certified
PART OF THE ROWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

Roy's Mowing & Garden Maintenance

• Garden tidy up's
• Bush/tree's/condifers/hedges cut or removed
• No job too big or small
• Special rates for OAP's
• Gutters Cleaned
• Fencing and Sheds Painted/Creosoted
• Chipper Hire
• Complete Garden Ripout
• Rubbish Removal
• Bush/Hedge and Tree Removal
• Patios and Drives Jetwashed

Please call: **0121 602 3815 / 07979 980951**

Landscaping

R & S Gardens

• All garden work undertaken
• Hedges and lawns cut
• General tidy and rubbish removed
• Garden landscaping and
fencing work
Telephone: **07851 323303**

CARDINAL LANDSCAPES

West Midlands
Specialists in Patios,
Driveways, Paths, Fencing,
Turfing, Decking and
Landscaping
Call now for a
FREE QUOTE
01902 562600 or
07539 887144

Mobile Hairdresser

MOBILE HAIRDRESSER

Cuts, Colours, Perms etc
Hair Extensions
Call Lyndsey **07795 514858**

Mot's

MOT £27.99 with this advert

FREE RE-TEST
Green Garage, Unit 2a Station Road,
(rear of Gold Cue Snooker Club), Blackheath, B65 0LJ

0121 559 6001

Plumbing & Heating

P.S. Heating & Plumbing

Combi Boiler change from **£950**
Specialists in Baxi / Baxi / Worcester Bosch / Vaillant Boilers plus many more
SPECIAL OFFERS ON FULL HEATING SYSTEMS

NATURAL & LPG GAS
Free Quotation
07961 140885

To advertise your business and reach more than 46,000 potential customers...

1

Call us on...
01902 319590

2

E-mail us at...
mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk

3

Post to...
Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Country
House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG

Local Specialists



Plumbing & Heating

WORCESTER
Bath
Accredited
Installer

P.P.S.

PLUMBING, HEATING, GAS FIRES, FIREPLACES, FULL BATHROOMS

- Service, Repair and Installations
- 25 years experience - ex British Gas
- GlowWorm accredited installer

www.ppsplumbingheating.co.uk
0121 422 9767
07810 122846
Hurst Green, Halesowen

Plastering

CI PLASTERING

All aspects of Plastering,
Dry Lining,
Skimming and Rendering,
Artex Removed
Insurance work undertaken

Call for free estimates

0121 4213934
07748 644816

DH PLASTERERS

FROM boarding, skimming, patching and repairs TO complete rooms

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES

0121 422 8594 or 07985 548466

C.A. Plastering

For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding, partitions, re-skimming and artex covering.

No job too small 07538 718264

Property Maintenance

DLH Property Maintenance

- Interior/Exterior Painting Decor
- Render/Repointing Brickwork
- GRP Flat Roof Fibre Glass Systems
- Jet Washing/Driveways/Patios, Re-Sanding/Sealing
- All General Property Maintenance Undertaken

FULLY Qualified FULLY Insured

Direct Line: 07788 628517

K S SERVICES

All types of General Repairs to your home and garden
Also interior and exterior decorating

Local Friendly Service 0121 532 4861
No Job Too Small!

Local Specialists



Pest Control

Greenlab Pest Control Ltd
A Local Established Company

- Wasps • Ants
- Flies • Bedbugs
- Flies • Rats/Mice
- Free Quotations
- B.P.C.A. Accredited
- CEPA Certified

COVERING ALL AREAS OF DUDLEY & STOURBRIDGE

Tel: 01384 859115
Freephone - 0800 953 0093
Mobile: 07913 355290
www.greenlabpestcontrol.co.uk
Email: sales@greenlabpestcontrol.co.uk

Roofing

ALL WEATHER ROOFING

Slating, Tiling, New Roofs, Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings, uPVC Fascia Cladding

FREE ESTIMATES • FAST RELIABLE SERVICE

Over 30 years experience

0121 420 1582
NO CALL OUT CHARGE
Mobile Number: **07947 839451**
allweatherroofingwestmids.co.uk
allweatherroofinguk@outlook.com

ROOFING SERVICES
One of the Leading Roofing Companies
No Job too Small, No Job too Big

- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15

SPECIAL OFFERS
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.

- Rubberised flat roofing
- Flat roof specialist
- Insurance work undertaken
- Est 25 years
- Discounted for OAPs
- Exterior Painting

FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE

Home: 01384 872276
Mobile: 07584 081228

Services
Fast and friendly service from a family run business, with over 10 years' experience

SPECIALISTS IN TILE, SLATE, fibreglass flat roofing, flat felt roofing, uPVC, fascias, soffits and guttering, lead work, pointing and storm damage

no job too big or too small
For a free quote call
0121 608 3522 or 07841 046 126
Kent Road, Halesowen, B62 8PD

ELITE PLASTICS

- Fascias • Soffits • Dry Verge
- Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair

Premium Products Expertly Fitted With Full Manufacture Guarantee.

For A Free Quote call 01384 468831 / 07985 575865
www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk

Skip Hire

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s

All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than
A phone call!!!

Open 7 days a week
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE
YOU FILL 'EM WE T'EM

Specialists

ACE PAVING SERVICES LTD

City and Guilds Streetworks Approved

- Tarmac • Concrete Imprint • Block Paving and Patios
- Landscaping • Streetworks • Curb dropping • Turfing
- Fencing and Decking • Power Washing • 5 year guarantee

FREE estimate • 15 years experience • Fully insured • Resinbond Drives.
01384 847115 | 0121 7692193 | 07448031419

Web: www.acepavingsservicesltd.co.uk
Email: acepavingsservices@outlook.com
Cradley Enterprise Centre, Maypole Fields, Halesowen B63 2QB

Tiling

I.C.A. TILING SERVICES

Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.
Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate, marble and all natural stone.

FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE

Quality workmanship at competitive prices.
Fully insured. Portfolio available.

For a free quote call Ian on 01384 412796 or 07890 894631

Upholstery

JC RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES
Specialists in Re-upholstery, Repairs and Antiques

CONTRACT & DOMESTIC
No Job Too Small
FREE ESTIMATES
Choice of patterns
Quality Workmanship

• Blackheath
0121 561 3977 daytime
or 0121 561 2344 evenings after 6 pm



EXCLUSIVE

50% OFF

VIDEO OFFERS

VIDEO ADVERT ~~was £699*~~ now **£349**

CORPORATE VIDEO ~~was £799*~~ now **£399**

Call 01902 319730 quote 'spring17' to receive saving

www.mnadigital.co.uk/video-advertising

MNA DIGITAL

To advertise your business and reach more than 41,000 potential customers...

1

Call us on...
01902 319590

2

E-mail us at...
mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk

3

Post to...
Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Lake Regional Centre, West Bromwich B70 0QB

Buy Local, Sell Local

funeral directors
N.E.DOWNING
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent
family run
Funeral Directors
24 hour service
Halesowen
0121 422 2794
www.nedowning.co.uk

**monumental
masons**
**HALESTONE
MEMORIALS**
Modern and traditional memorials
Ring for FREE brochure
0121 550 4235
Or visit our showroom at
Somers Road,
Halesowen B62 8EN
www.halestonememorials.co.uk

**1
Family**

**elderly &
disabled**
MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350
can deliver, servicing available.
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01354
255019 / 07831 246292.
RISER RECLINE chair good condi-
tion and working order. £200 ono.
07910 074802.
WREKIN STAIRLIFTS recondi-
tioned lifts from £799. New avail-
able. 01952 405397/07897 273617

**2
Leisure
Time**

bikes
PENDLETON LADIES
bike with basket,
leather seat / handle grips.
£150.
07918 101074.

car boot sales

**BEST SUNDAY
BOOTSAL**
Only £5 per Car/Van.
7AM START. Docking Lane,
Cannock WS12 4PB
07890 267 041

**BIGGEST SATURDAY
BOOTSAL**
Catering positions available
ch. 1454 Rudge Heath between
Wolverhampton and Bridgnorth
By Royal Oak pub island WV6 7EE
07890 267 041

**GIANT THURSDAY
CAR BOOT SALE**
This Thursday
and every
Thursday
6am - 2pm at
Mill Lane,
Sarendon WV10 7LJ
Tel: 07831 192 116

**IT'S BACK IT'S BACK
MIDLANDS BIGGEST
CAR BOOT SALE**
THIS SUNDAY AND
EVERY SUNDAY
Now at Dark Lane,
Featherstone WV10 7HT
Just off main A460.
6 am-2 pm 1minute from J11 M6
1minute J1 M54
**GIANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON
CAR BOOT SALE**
THIS SUNDAY AND EVERY SUNDAY AT SHARESHILL
just off main A460 behind M6 diesel garage.
WV10 7LZ. 11am-4pm.
1 min Junction 11 M6 1 min Junction 1 M54
Sales start after 10am.
All enquiries: 07831 192116
01785 282234, 07980 800581
www.gocarbootsales.com

WEDNESDAY BOOT SALE
Now at Ivy House Farm, A461,
Springhill, Muckley Corner
Lichfield WS14 0BX
SATURDAY BOOT SALE
Boat Lane, Muckley Corner,
Lichfield WS14 0BU
07890 267041

**caravans /
motorhomes**

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW
35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym
Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further?
www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433
ACE JUBILEE Diplomat, 2003, very
clean condition, used twice £3,250
ono., Call 07527 031128.

**We Want Your
Motorhome**
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

**BUCCANEER TWO BERTH
CARAVAN**
Two berth, 1996, 18ft, rear
bathroom, all facilities, nice and
clean.
£1,395.
07733 063247, 01543 505955.
Cannock

**BARGAIN
CARAVAN**
CH, DG.
One double, one twin bedroom.
Sleeps 6, fitted kitchen and
bathroom, large lounge and
verandas.
Sited prime position,
Haven Black Rock Sands.
£14,000 ono.
01686 670582, 07825 338530.

CHELMARSH SHROPSHIRE 2
bedroom static caravans for sale
from £7,000 to new on quiet farm
site, also touring pitches available.
Adults only. 01746 861192.
CROWN REGENT 1999 5 berth,
fridge, oven, hot water, cassette
toilet, shower, fire, blinds inc full
awning. Excellent condition £2,595
ono 0775288960

ELDDIS MOTORHOME
Four berth, Peugeot boxer, 2.0
HDI, 2006, 22,696 miles, new
tow bar fitted, twin cycle rack, all
mod cons.
Ill health forces sale.
£18,565 ono.
07731 852980.

LUNAR CLUBMAN SE
2010, Fixed bed, end
washroom, motor mover,
immaculate throughout.
£11,995.
07988 486772 / 01922
495123.

**STATIC ATLAS
EVERGLADE**
38ft 12ft, 6 berth.
Large decking.
All contents included.
Site fees paid till 2017.
Beach location, Borth,
Mid Wales.
£11,000 ono.
07986 690052.

STATIC CARAVAN
35 X 12, with large decking, 2
bed, 8 berth, on quiet site in Mid
Wales, 2 fishing pools, 20
minutes to coast, ground rent
included for 2017, no age limit,
dogs welcome. £7,950.
07555 303350.

STERLING ELITE EMERALD
4 berth touring caravan, 2011,
excellent condition, Alde wet
heating system, end wash
room, motor movers, awning,
loads of extras.
£12,000 ono.
07896 359696.

caravans wanted

**WANTED
ALL CARAVANS**
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS
07717 280 996
www.tscaravansandmotorhomes.co.uk

WANTED CARAVANS
Any age or condition.
Cash waiting.
Immediate collection.
Call Bill 07825 325913.

**jumble sales /
fetes**
BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Sunday, 28th May
Next Sale: 11th June
**KINVER COMMUNITY
CENTRE**
DY7 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

music shop

**GIBSON SG GUITAR
STANDARD 9-HP**
brand new and unused,
still boxed with Gibson bag,
cost £1,000.
bargain £750.
07764 944771.

sports & leisure
REEBOK QT40S TREADMILL
Reebok treadmill, excellent condi-
tion. £199 ono. 01902 843447.

holidays

travel abroad
READERS ARE REMINDED
to check with any insurance
that their holiday costs are fully
covered by a recognised bonding or
insurance scheme.

**3
Home &
Services**

**collectables &
memorabilia**

furniture

KINGSIZE BED FRAME, all wood
slatted kingsize bed frame. £50
ono. 01902 843447.
MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS, double,
still wrapped, easy care, sell £130
ono. 07521 857432.
PINE BEDROOM furniture, set of 6
items, including full length dressing
mirror, excellent condition, must
be seen. £150 ono. 01384 240155.

**household
appliances**

BOSCH BHE45 COOKER HOOD,
as new, still boxed, cost £160, will
accept £115 ono.
Telephone 01922 402915.

in your garden

LAWN TRACTOR
22hp, 42 inch cut with collector,
totally new and unused.
Cost £4,000.
Will accept £1,895.
Can deliver.
Telephone 07710 169150.

WEBB 10" push mower with roller
and grass box. £20.
07910 074802.

items wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE

**FOR ALL RAILWAY
COLLECTIONS**
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/
Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/
any live steam. Also Die Cast,
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219 / 07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

ALL OLD COINS and notes wanted
by collector.
01384 273396.

**AUTO MEMORABILIA
WANTED**
**SHELL, ESSO,
CASTROL ETC**
ALSO
GARAGE CLEARANCES
Old Enamel Signs,
Petrol Cans,
Old Jugs,
Classic Car Parts,
Bikes and Motorbikes.
Anything old.
** TOP PRICES PAID **
01384 836219 / 07891 713547

READERS ARE ADVISED
to carefully consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any
of their items.

WANTED
J40 Pedal car, vintage moped,
Sinclair C5, hatbox, vintage
vending/slot machines, juke
box, anything old, Old fire arms.
01384 484309 or
07930 949337.

WANTED TWO CAFE Style round
seat Bentwood Chairs.
01384 254017.

loans

READERS ARE REMINDED
that they may require profes-
sional advice before entering into
obligations.

**t.v. / home
entertainment**

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc,
CCTV cameras supplied & fitted.
Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days.
Digital signals, Sky installation, Wall
mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251

**specialists at
your service**

aerials

**AA DIGITAL
AERIALS**
SATELLITE & CCTV
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 558191
01384 429166
07543 430955
01922 716029
07833 738857
A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST
CCTV cameras fitted/tv wallmount,
free quote/any area. 07850 330251

**CHOOSE
CLASSIFIED**



"I am very pleased
with the response
I get from my
Classified
Advertising
Contract"

Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

For great business
results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

alarms/security

**PREMIER
ALARMS**
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years exp
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,
driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

building supplies

**QUALITY DOORS AND HARD-
WOOD FLOORING** @ low prices.
Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

fencing

**PORTWAY
FENCING**
SPECIAL OFFER
10 days of quality fencing, concrete posts,
gravel borders. £695
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
33 Portway Rd, W.bury
DELIVERY
AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

**CHOOSE
CLASSIFIED**



"I am extremely
happy with the
service I get from
my Express & Star
Classified Sales
Representative
and I would
recommend them
to anyone!"
Michael -
Portway Fencing.

For great business
results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

**gardening
services**

GREENLAY
Fencing Decking
Slabbing Turfing
DBS Checked
07956 584523 • 0121 550 4712

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per
garden. 25 years experience. Call
01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

MAC GARDENING
All garden work and maintenance,
lawn mowing, hedges trimmed,
0121 4060976
07525 0769 52

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work
is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without
being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid
for house clearances and bereave-
ments. Also removals undertaken.
07852 172641 / 07710 360327

plastering

**M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING
Services.** Home/Garden Improve-
ments. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE
Clean and Reliable. All Work
Undertaken. All Areas. Call
0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

plumbers

24/7 Plumbing Services
We cover all aspects of Plumbing,
Bathrooms, Showers, Leaks, Radiators, OAP
Discounts. NO CALL OUT CHARGE.
No Call Out Charge
01384 912003

removals

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your
Removal needs. 07429 453209/
01902 830670 / 01384 940280.

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof
repairs, fascias and gutters. Call
01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

rubbish removal

LET'S TALK RUBBISH No Skips
Needed. Load/Remove any Waste,
House Clearance. 07969 628382

**4
Pets &
Animals**

**equestrian
corner**

ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies
have the required Passport infor-
mation.

RUTLAND ELECTRIC Fence, ESB,
275 very good condition, perfect
working order. Call for details
01691 648061.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
requirements for owning and using
guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when
purchasing a puppy there are
some simple guidelines you can
follow to ensure that you are not
purchasing from a Puppy
Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with it's
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any
KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
establishment.

KIND HOMES WANTED
Jack
Lab/cross, 2 years, old good
with children.
Molly
3 year old Terrier/Collie? Lovely
girl but must be only dog.
8 year old Lhasa Apso,
suit pensioners.
* 9 year old boy Pug Cross
Cavalier, lovely little overweight
chap.
Katie
7 year old Blue Merle Collie and
Megan
9 year old Collie both lovely
girls.
Also other Collies
01588 676106.
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

TODD AND CERI
two beautiful 4 month old
Collies in need of very special
homes with experienced dog
owners, you would need to be
home much of the time to aid
there socialisation.
Todd and Ceri are two of five
puppies born into the wild in a
remote spot in mid Wales by a
feral, but gentle, sweet dog.
They love to play with other
gentle dogs and toys, eat well,
and are toilet trained.
Are you that special person who
can help find them their happy
ending.
Please contact 01588 676106
visit website
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

flats for sale

**TWO BEDROOM
GROUDDFLOOR
APARTMENT**
In Penn Village.
Corner position.
£112,000 ono.
01902 331155.

**overseas
property**

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
ments.

**5
Business &
Farming**

**BUY
LOCAL
SELL
LOCAL**
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

**business
opportunities**

READERS are recommended to
take appropriate professional
advice before entering into any
obligations.

properties wanted

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

**Need to sell your
home fast?**
We can help you
make a fresh start
With solutions to suit...
you can clear your debts
and make a fresh start
Purchase Agreed Within
7 DAYS
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY
MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
0121 405 0797 *Terms and
Conditions apply
OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7



CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

7

Jobs

electricians

QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN

required for busy electrical contractors, based in Halesowen. Must be versatile and able to work on various aspects of electrical work, i.e. installation, fire alarm, emergency lighting, testing and inspecting, electrical repairs. Industrial knowledge would be an advantage.

Please forward your CV to julie@newfield-electrical.co.uk or ring 0121 561 6060.

employment wanted

EXPERIENCED Bricklayer requires employment. All types of brickwork. Contact 07341 021774.

8

Motoring

cars under £1500

IMMACULATE

BMW 318i
04 plate,
red, 97K,
manual, petrol,
MoT October 2017,
Very good condition.
£950
07931 809992.

courses

BIRMINGHAM: 17-18 JULY & 30 NOV - 1 DEC.
WOLVERHAMPTON: 16-17 SEPT.
TELFORD: 20-21 MAY & 23-24 OCTOBER

Learn how to take blood TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

For more info or to book: www.geopace.com

HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD

full time - general

BMI ENGINEERING

MULTI SPINDLE LATHE SETTER
REQUIRED FOR MIDLANDS BASED TURNED PARTS MANUFACTURER

The ideal candidate should have experience of setting/operating multi spindle lathes to customer drawing requirements. A knowledge of Wickman machines would be an advantage but additional training will be provided if necessary.

Candidates who can demonstrate some setting experience coupled with a good knowledge of turning and threading techniques, use of measuring equipment and the ability to read engineering drawings will also be considered. The ability to communicate effectively with Quality personnel and work as part of a team is also required.

Wages negotiable.

Applicants should forward a current C.V. and a letter of application to **BMI Engineering Ltd, Vernon Road, Halesowen, B62 8HN** or by email to ben.elwell@bmi-engineering.co.uk

RYDALE WINDOWS
(Manufacturing) Ltd

Established over 32 years

EXPERIENCED WINDOW FITTERS, CONSERVATORY FITTERS AND BRICKLAYERS WITH BASE EXPERIENCE

Must have experience within the industry
Based in Long Lane, Halesowen
Good rates of pay & working conditions

Please forward c.v. to:
stuart.humpherson@rydalewindows.co.uk
or telephone 0121 559 4211

motor trade

We are looking for a full-time **EXPERIENCED PAINTER, PREPER AND AN EXPERIENCED PANEL BEATER** for our busy workshop in Halesowen. Applicants must be able to work as a team and produce good quality work to high standards, expected by our customers. For further details please email halesowenaccidentrepaircentre@outlook.com

CITROEN MULTISPACE
2007, diesel, 5 seater, excellent and clean, 2 large sliding doors, long MoT, 178,000 miles but serviced up to date.
Used for my wife's disability.
First to see will buy.
£1,500 ono
0121 505 7345.
07543 919304, Wednesbury.

BARGAIN

CITROEN PICASSO DIESEL 2.0
53 Reg.,
146,000 miles,
silver, manual,
well looked after,
no problems.
£400.
01562 632756.



FORD KA 1.3
2005, 75,000 Miles, Dark Blue, fsh, MoT until Sept '17. Ideal first car
£600 ono
07941 969117

LOOK

FORD KA
2007, MoT,
49,000 miles,
black, alloys,
EW, CL, PAS,
looks and drives great.
£995
07412 831994.

BARGAIN

PEUGEOT 207 1.4S
2007, 5-dr, hatchback,
silver, 81,000 miles,
MoT April 2018,
2 former keepers,
very clean inside and out.
£1,350.
07838 897643.



PEUGEOT 307
2003, 58,500 miles, blue, good condition, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, fsh, long MoT.
£600.
07492 869001.

RENAULT MEGANE, 2004, 43,343 miles, red, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, MoT, £950 ono. 07947 643454.

CONVERTIBLE

RENAULT MEGANE CONVERTIBLE 1.6
55 Reg,
excellent runner,
gold colour,
6 months MoT.
£1,200.
07478 478831.

VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4
54 reg, black, MoT November, alloys, CD, runs and drives really well,
£450 ono.
07961 669911,

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2
3 door, 52 reg.
Silver.
Only 65k.
12 months MoT.
Stunning condition.
Only £795.
Telephone 07840 175237.

BARGAIN

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI
5Dr, 04 Reg.,
2 owners,
low miles,
long MoT, CD,
Central locking, PAS.
£975 ono
07400 994878.

BARGAIN

VW PASSAT ESTATE DIESEL 1.9 TDI HIGHLANDER AUTO.
2005, 142K, fully loaded. Silver. Leather, alloys, etc....
£795.
Genuine callers only please.
Telephone 07850 330251

VW POLO
51 Plate, 5dr hatchback in silver, one lady owner from new, low mileage, full electrics, long MoT.
£525.
07599 220780

cars over £1500



CITREON BERLINGO
2002, 130,000 miles, white, long MoT, pas, diesel, Roma-home Campervan R20 model, gas grill, toilet, 3 way fridge.
£9,200.
01543 304154.



DAEWOO NUBIRA
1999, 43,000 miles, green, long MoT, one owner.
£450 ono.
07392 061005.



FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 95
1400, 5Dr hatchback, grey metallic, 2010, MoT January 2018, fsh, excellent condition, one previous keeper, extras, alloys, CD, mats, etc.
£4,495 ono.
07739 267589.



MERCEDES E280 ESTATE
55 reg, (Dec 2005), 123,000 miles, 2987cc, diesel, auto, silver metallic, finished to Avantgarde standard, fsh, MoT until Oct. Elegant, looks in good condition.
£4,000 ono.
01562 639227.



MINI ONE GRAPHITE
09 reg, 81k, 1400cc, petrol, metallic grey, one lady owner, fsh, usb, aux, Bluetooth, hill assist, stop/start, 6 speed, 10 months MoT.
£3,700 ono.
07878 239301.

MINI COOPER, 53 £1995, Mini One, 55 £2695, Mini Cooper, 51, £1695, Severn Valley Leisure, Stourbridge DY8 4HP. 01384 390183.



NISSAN MICRA 1.4 TEKNA
3Dr, 2009, 60,000 miles, two owners, fsh, 10 months MoT, alloys, AC, auto climate control, radio CD, Bluetooth, Aux in, immaculate condition.
£2,695.
07486 646809.

SUPER BARGAIN

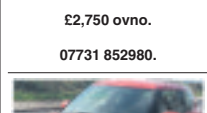
SEAT IBIZA 1.4SE
10 reg., good condition,
low mileage 43,000,
FSH, 12 months MoT.
£3,500 ono.
07916 313148.

BARGAIN

SKODA FABIA 1.6 TDI
5dr, silver, 2011, immaculate condition, very economical, low mileage 49,500, long MoT, next due 14.03.18, FSH, last serviced 27.03.17, discs and pads changed at last service, well maintained, has history of being serviced by Skoda technicians, cam belt changed at 33,000 miles (have invoices), 2 keys, alarm, £20 per year road tax.
£4,150.
07817 073369.

IDEAL TOW CAR

SMART PASSION 4 2
2008, white, 32,600 miles, £30 per year road tax, with A frame plus breaking system for being towed.
£2,750 onvo.
07731 852980.



SUZUKI SWIFT SZ3
2013, 20,000 miles, red, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, MoT, central locking, pas, alloys, CD, excellent condition.
£5,200.
07712 669490.



VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 VVT EXCLUSIV
2010, 5 door, 47,968 miles, silver.
Good clean condition
Lady owner.
£3,700 ono
07840285111

VAUXHALL ASTRA
Eco 1700 diesel, 85,000 miles,
alarmed, £30 per years tax,
58 plate, alarm,
censors back and front,
all tyres perfect with locking nuts.
£3,700.
07923 191378.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA
09 plate, 59,000 miles, 4 new tyres, serviced, 6 months MoT, been checked by Evans Halshaw, with paperwork, £3,300 ono.
07923 191378.

LOW MILEAGE

VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN TWINPORT
Triptronic, 17k miles, one lady owner, 05 reg, 12 months MoT, excellent condition.
£2,350.
Telephone 07895 346232.

CONVERTIBLE

VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.4 EXCLUSIVE
09, 27,400 miles,
leather interior,
heated seats,
service history,
MoT, AC.
£2,500 o.n.o.
07973 349820
or
0121 530 9905.

LOOK

VW PASSAT 2.0TDI 140 BMT HIGHLINE ESTATE
2013, 89,000 miles,
in excellent condition.
VW service history,
new tyres,
MoT.
£8,450
01902 791976.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Car. Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered
01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

motorbikes

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

LAMBRETTA GOLDEN SUPER
1965, 125cc, as new, you won't find one better. Tool kit, spare rack cover, backrest cover.
£5,750.
07710 700187.

TRITON PRE UNIT 1965 all alloy Triton on log book many special parts, well sorted, £6,000. 07517 902349.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MoT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

WANTED OLD CLASSIC CAR

Triumph / MG / Jaguar / Porsche etc anything interesting, as project / investment, condition not important.

Please telephone Ron
07424 399776.

FreeAds

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items up to £250.
Online at
www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

PENN COLTS FC 5/7 A-SIDE TOURNAMENT
U7'S minor - 8/10/12/ and 14's
Saturday, July 1.
U7'S 9/11/13/15.
Sunday, July 2.
For all application forms visit
www.penncolts.co.uk
or call 07748 677682.

10 Personals

personal

Angels
The largest adult website in the Midlands
+ Adult Toys + Sexy Lingerie + Erotic New Toys
Unit 5 Frederick Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, M13 9SE
01922 835544

ATTRACTIVE lonely Female seeking broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489 181.

PAT, KITTEN CARD
You wrote but no telephone number, try again.

Box Number P20811,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SINGLE MALE
Slim, NS, active male,
young 70 from Wombourne.
WLTm a younger, slim, NS adventurous lady, who enjoys travel, country walks and pubs and visiting interesting places.

Box Number P20809,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton,
WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

PENN COLTS FC 5/7 A-SIDE TOURNAMENT
U7'S minor - 8/10/12/ and 14's
Saturday, July 1.
U7'S 9/11/13/15.
Sunday, July 2.
For all application forms visit
www.penncolts.co.uk
or call 07748 677682.

CLASSIFIEDS WORK!!!

"For over 30 years we have used Express & Star classified adverts which has resulted in many happy caravan owners!"
Hilanda Caravans

"I average around 10 phone calls a week from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels."
Mr Causar

WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS SAY!!!

"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."
Black Country Homes

"Wednesfield Carpentry & Gates are really pleased with their classified contract advertising response."
John - Wednesfield Carpentry & Gates.

"I am extremely happy with the Service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"
Michael - Portway Fencing

Call **01902 319 191**

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

Paddleboarding Italian coast in a Kia Picanto!

By James Baggott

It's all too easy to pigeon-hole cars like the Kia Picanto as city centre shopping karts, fit for nothing more than a quick trip to the supermarket.

While it might be true that the Korean car firm's baby has traditionally been bought by grandparents and students, it's an image the brand is desperately hoping it can shed. This is the third generation of Kia's second best-selling UK car and with it comes more aggressive looks, sharper driving style and technology aimed at helping it appeal to a far broader range of buyers.

Kia believes it can convince customers that while it might still be an easy and fun to drive little car, the new Picanto can still cope with the bigger adventures city dwellers might hanker for too. That's why I find myself squeezed into a wet suit, dripping with sea water after a paddle-boarding adventure on the Italian coastline.

To prove just how versatile its new Picanto can be if you want it to, Kia invited us to the Toscana coastline, crammed two blow-up paddleboards, wet suits and a picnic in one and pointed us towards the coast.

Costing from just £9,450, the Picanto now boasts more passenger and luggage space but with no overall increase in size over the previous model. The Koreans have managed that by increasing the wheelbase while at the same time reducing overhangs. That means inside there's a 25 per cent increase in luggage space, topping 255-litres with the rear seats up and 1,010-litres with them down. That extra carrying capacity certainly comes in handy. The two giant inflatable paddleboards



You'd be surprised at what you can pack in a Picanto

are easily swallowed in the boot, while overnight bags for two and accessories find a home too. In fact, it's surprising just how much space there is left over.

There's a choice of engines in the new model. Our test vehicle – in '2' specification – features the 1.0-litre 66bhp unit. But there's also a 1.25-litre 83bhp option and a soon-to-be-added 1.0-litre turbocharged option. As fun as the latter sounds, even the lowest output unit hauls the city car along at a perfectly adequate rate (despite a lot of luggage) hitting 60mph in 13.8 seconds and a top speed of 100mph. What's more it'll do that while sipping fuel at a miserly 64.2mpg rate on the combined cycle.

Crossing the rich, lush green vine-covered Italian countryside near Grosseto as we attempt to find the beach, the Picanto's light steering and peppy engine impresses, as does its ability to soak up potholes you'd fear would otherwise swallow it.

As we approach the beach, the asphalt crumbles away and the Picanto skips between giant holes littering the sand-covered track to the water. After unpacking all of the kit, it's impressive just how much has been pushed into the pleasantly practical Picanto.

While drying off in the supportive front seats of the Kia, there's time to play with the kit. It's functional not flashy inside, and despite the smaller screen for the multimedia system on this mid-range '2', it still works well with your phone, streaming Spotify perfectly.

There's air conditioning, electric front and rear windows, heated door mirrors and leather trimmed steering wheel to enjoy and that's on top of the options standard across the range which include remote central locking, USB and AUX ports, electronic stability control and automatic city braking.

The latter was well demonstrated on our return trip, triggering when a sheep strayed into the middle of the road. The system automatically brakes for drivers up to speeds of 50mph to a complete stop when it sensing a crash – in this case assisting to the point where the sheep narrowly avoids becoming another statistic.

Kia has certainly moved its Picanto on leaps and bounds from its predecessor. On the road it's sharper to drive, quieter and sportier than ever before. Its new tech – which on higher spec models even includes Apple CarPlay and Android Auto – is impressive, while it's a comfortable car to spend time in. What's more, it's always satisfying to know that even though it's a car unlikely to shed that blue rinse stereotype, if you are a more adventurous owner it can cope admirably with all the kit you'll need to escape city life.



The new Picanto can cope with the bigger adventures as it does with city life

Oak Garage .co.uk

Oak Garage your local RAC Approved Dealer.

Our Low Mileage Selection

14	MicroCar M-GO 0.5 SLX White Only 2000 Miles	£4,995
64	Vauxhall Astra Sports Tourer 1.6i Elite Blue Only 4000 Miles	£9,995
14	Hyundai IX20 1.6 Active Auto Blue Only 6000 Miles	£8,995
13	Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 VTI Exclusive EGS6 Grey Only 7000 Miles	£7,995
14	Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i Icon+ Turquoise Only 8000 Miles	£7,995
15	Nissan Pulsar Diesel 1.5 dCi Acenta Red Only 8000 Miles	£10,295
15	Citroen C1 Hatchback 1.0 VTI Flair ETG Grey Only 9000 Miles	£7,995
59	Toyota Prius 1.8 VVT-i T Spirit 5dr CVT Auto Blue Only 11000 Miles	£9,995
63	Ford Focus Diesel 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec Red Only 11000 Miles	£8,995
14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.6 CDTi Exclusiv Brown Only 11000 Miles	£7,995
14	Nissan Note 1.2 DiG-S Acenta Premium Auto Blue Only 12000 Miles	£8,495
14	Hyundai I20 Hatchback 1.2 Active Silver Only 12000 Miles	£6,995
Citroen		
14	Citroen C3 1.6 e-HDi Air Exclusive ETG6 Red 16k	£7,995
12	Citroen C3 Picasso Diesel Estate 1.6 HDi 8V VTR+ Grey 30k	£6,295
63	Citroen C3 Picasso Estate 1.6 VTI 16V VTR+ EGS6 Silver 27k	£7,295
14	Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Exclusive+ Red 62k	£9,495
63	Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR Blue 69k	£7,295
11	Citroen C4 Picasso Diesel 1.6 HDi VTR+ Silver 45k	£6,995
06	Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Exclusive 4dr Auto White 79k	£9,995
14	Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto Silver 62k	£7,495
57	Citroen C6 Diesel Saloon 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto Black	£7,695
63	Citroen DS3 1.6 e-HDi Airdream DStyle Plus Black 40k	£7,795
14	Citroen Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Exclusive ETG6 Blue 41k	£11,495
63	Citroen Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Airdream VTR+ Red 26k	£10,995
Ford		
15	Ford B-max Hatchback 1.6 Zetec Powershift Blue 16k	£8,995
13	Ford C-max Diesel 1.6 TDCi Zetec Black 23k	£8,295
11	Ford C-max Diesel Estate 1.6 TDCi Zetec Blue 57k	£6,295
14	Ford C-max Estate 1.6 TDCi Titanium Silver 22k	£9,995
56	Ford Fiesta Hatchback 1.4 Zetec 5dr [Climate] Black 45k	£2,695
13	Ford Fiesta Hatchback 1.6 Zetec Powershift Black 22k	£7,995
64	Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec Navigator White 29k	£9,795
09	Ford Focus 1.6 TDCi Zetec Silver 84k	£3,295
13	Ford Focus Diesel 1.6 TDCi 115 Titanium White 34k	£8,995
63	Ford Focus Diesel 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec Black 32k	£8,995
13	Ford Focus Hatchback 1.6 Zetec 5dr White 13k	£8,795
14	Ford Grand C-max 1.6 TDCi Zetec Blue 15k	£10,495
09	Ford Mondeo Diesel 2.0 TDCi Zetec Silver 90k	£3,495
Nissan		
63	Nissan Juke Hatchback 1.6 Acenta White 23k	£8,795
14	Nissan Note 1.5 dCi Acenta Premium 5dr Blue 27k	£7,995
63	Nissan Note 1.5 dCi Acenta Premium 5dr Grey 31k	£7,995
57	Nissan Note Hatchback 1.4 Acenta 5dr Blue	£1,995
14	Nissan Qashqai 1.2 DiG-T Acenta [Smart Vision Pack] Black 13k	£12,795
Peugeot		
63	Peugeot 2008 1.6 e-HDi Active EGC Brown 21k	£8,495
14	Peugeot 208 Hatchback 1.2 VTI Active Red 14k	£7,295
14	Peugeot 3008 1.6 e-HDi Active 5dr EGC Silver 31k	£8,695
13	Peugeot 3008 Diesel 1.6 HDi 115 Allure Grey 24k	£8,995
13	Peugeot 308 Diesel 1.6 HDi 92 Access Silver 71k	£4,795
Renault		
14	Renault Captur 1.5 dCi 90 Dynamique S MediaNav Orange 29k	£9,995
14	Renault Clio 0.9 TCE 90 Dynamique S MediaNav Red 15k	£8,995
14	Renault Clio 1.5 dCi 90 Dynamique S MediaNav Energy Red 21k	£9,295
61	Renault Megane Coupe 2.0 T 16V Renaultsport 250 3dr White 42k	£10,995

**Sales Line Open Till 10pm Tonight
Call Steve 07747 633329**



Only 200 Yards From
Merry Hill Shopping Centre:

Vauxhall		
63	Vauxhall Antara Diesel 2.2 CDTi Diamond Auto Black 18k	£10,995
14	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16V ecoFLEX SRi Green 13k	£8,995
63	Vauxhall Astra 1.6i 16V Exclusiv Auto Blue 68k	£4,695
14	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16V ecoFLEX Elite Red 44k	£7,995
58	Vauxhall Combo 1.3 CDTi Auto With Access Ramp Silver 81k	£2,995
63	Vauxhall Corsa Hatchback 1.4 SRi 3dr [AC] Red 14k	£6,995
14	Vauxhall Meriva 1.6 CDTi 16V eco Exclusiv Blue 19k	£7,495
14	Vauxhall Mokka Hatchback 1.6i SE Blue 21k	£10,495
63	Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi ecoFLEX Exclusiv [110] Grey 23k	£7,995
14	Vauxhall Zafira Estate 1.8i Exclusiv Brown 16k	£7,495
63	Vauxhall Zafira Tourer 2.0 CDTi ecoFLEX Exclusiv Gold 42k	£9,495
15	Vauxhall Zafira Tourer 2.0 CDTi Exclusiv Black 13k	£9,995
Others		
60	Honda Accord 2.0 i-VTEC EX 4dr Auto Silver 36k	£8,495
10	Honda Civic Hatchback 1.8 i-VTEC Si Red 69k	£4,995
07	Kia Ceed Diesel Hatchback 1.6 CRDi LS Black 99k	£1,995
64	Kia Sportage Diesel Estate 2.0 CRDi KX-2 Blue 18k	£14,995
05	Mitsubishi Shogun Diesel Sw 3.2 DI-D Elegance Auto Silver	£3,995
08	Toyota Auris Hatchback 1.6 VVT-i T Spirit Blue 64k	£3,495
11	Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i T Spirit Nav Silver 87k	£3,495
08	Volkswagen Touran 1.9 TDI S 90 Grey 87k	£5,495










Finance Arranged Within 60 Mins

From **4.99%** Flat Rate / APR Variable

For A Quick Decision Call Us Now

01384 906030

Application Requirements

-  Driving Licence
-  Bank Details
-  2 Proofs Of Address
-  Employers Details
-  Self Employed Available
-  Retired Facility Available
-  Loans Subject To Status



Another 100 Low Mileage Cars Available Soon See Details At:

www.oakgarage.co.uk

Unit I , Sterling Park, Brierley Hill DY5 1TB

Tel: 01384 906030

Opening Times: Mon-Thu: 9-6, Fri-Sat: 9-5, Sun: 11-4

MG lifts lid on its new game-changer

By Aidan Rennie-Jones

MG Motors has announced a new model to its line-up.

The MG XS will be a small SUV that will compete against the likes of the SsangYong Tivoli and Dacia Duster.

Last year MG introduced the GS, but the new model has a much more curvy appearance at the front end than its sibling. It also looks sportier thanks to chunky alloy wheels, silver roof rails and lots of chrome trim.

Inside it is the same story with optional leather interior, sat nav and carbon fibre effect trim throughout, again adding a touch of sportiness.

Costing from £15,095, the MG GS is available with a 1.5-litre turbo petrol engine with a manual or seven-speed automatic gearbox, as well as a host of upgraded technology.

Similar engines and gearboxes will be available in the new car.

Matthew Cheyne is the head of sales and marketing for MG. He said: "The MG XS will be a real game-changer in the compact SUV marketplace. The meaning behind the name is simple – S stands for SUV, X means extra."

"Featuring state-of-the-art driver technology and innovative design, the new model builds on our growing reputation for capability, performance and quality, positioned at a highly-affordable price – the customer gets extra, for less."

Full specifications and trim details are yet to be announced. However customers can pre-book test-drives and even pre-order their car online now.



The new model has a curvy appearance



It looks sporty with alloy wheels

The MG XS adds to the brand's already popular line-up, meeting market demand for an affordable, compact SUV.

For more information about the MG XS, visit www.mg.co.uk

The XS was unveiled at the London Motor Show last week and is expected to arrive in dealerships later on this year.



The MG XS adds to the brand's line-up and will compete against the likes of the SsangYong Tivoli and Dacia Duster

EVERY FRIDAY!

NewCar?

VIEW OUR VIDEO ROAD TESTS

WWW.EXPRESSANDSTAR.CO.UK

NEW CAR OFFERS

USED CAR DEALS

PRIVATE AND FROM THE TRADE!

NEW CAR REVIEWS & ROAD TESTS

Follow us on Twitter @drivetimeES



MOTORING

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO THE BEST CARS ON THE MARKET



TOYOTA YARIS, FROM £12,495

New supermini models hit the roads in the UK

Ford is plotting RS versions of its SUV range

ALSO THIS WEEK...



DYNAMIC AUDIO SCULPTURE



VAUXHALL ASTRA TESTED



NEW ALFA ROMEO

Astra now a top credible contender



£1000 SPENDING MONEY

THE VAUXHALL SALES EVENT 17 - 21 MARCH 2017

Get that cracking Vauxhall you've always wanted PLUS a great deal more

EXCLUSIVE TO YOUR BLACK COUNTRY VAUXHALL DEALERS

Quality Motor Company 01894 454000
Halesowen Motor House 01923 522 0001
Halesowen Motor House 01923 522 0001
Halesowen Motor House 01923 522 0001

New model runs Amarok over rivals



trustgroupuk

SPRING 3 DAY SALE EVENT

£500 FINANCE DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION

BEAT THE TAX INCREASE

FREE 2 YEAR WARRANTY

trust

Classified Ads

Various classified advertisements for cars, services, and businesses.

CHANGE UP A GEAR WITH **MOTORING**

Express & Star



U-13s high jump winner Jolyon Davis, of Wolverhampton & Bilston AC



High jump judges get out the measuring tape



Competitors warm up before the start of the championships



Steve Hollis, Tamworth, competes in the men's javelin



Long jumper Isabelle Kelly, aged 15, for Cannock & Stafford

Records tumble as championship returns to city

RECORDS were shattered as more than 300 athletes descended on Wolverhampton for the Staffordshire County Track and Field Championships.

For the first time in almost 30 years, Aldersley Stadium played host to an event which sees the region's best go head-to-head.

Host club Wolverhampton & Bilston watched three of its junior stars set new records en route to victory – in the year the club celebrates its 50th birthday. Jolyon Davies, in the under-13 high jump, Molly Walsh, in the junior women's hammer (4kg) and Phoebe Baggott in the under-15 girls hammer (3kg) all went higher and further than any athletes in those category before.

Club president Mary Harding said: "It has not been held here for many years and usually would be held at Stoke or Cannock, so to welcome it back in our 50th year was very special. "It was wonderful to be able to bring it back. There were many great performances."

Davies, who also took victory in the u-13 shot competition, achieved a height of 1.51m in the high jump, which set a new record in the category.

Walsh meanwhile set a new record in junior women's hammer with a distance of 53.15m, while Baggott threw 56.43m in the u-15s girls' hammer.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Clare Butler

"To welcome it back in our 50th year was very special. It was wonderful. There were many great performances."

A busy day of action featured athletes from clubs including Tipton Harriers, Stone Master Marathoners, Cannock & Stafford and Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers.

Tipton enjoyed early success thanks to Alexia Bennett-Cordy, who won the u-15 75m hurdles in 11.7 seconds.

Cannock & Stafford's Amy Pye showed her versatility with victory in both the u-17 80m hurdles and 300m, before club-mates Chloe Wilde and Natalie Ainge won the women's junior and senior 400m races respectively. Wilde with a new championship record time of 64.8 seconds.

Travis Christie gave the home club something to celebrate, coming home ahead of the field in the men's senior 400m, while Cannock's strong afternoon continued with a one-two in the men's u-17 800m final as Joshua Ward led home team-mate Bill Chesters.

Wolverhampton & Bilston took the top three positions in the u-15 girls 800m with Aliya Westwood finishing

in front of Lucy Semple and Jessica Moore and then proceeded to dominate the 1500m races at u-15 level, with Alfie Oliver winning the men's and Ella Semple the girls.

The sprints saw Cannock & Stafford's Chloe Lindop lead home the field in the junior women's 100m, while Derrion Thompson won the senior race – she also won the senior 200m event.

Wolverhampton & Bilston's Alexander James Nwenwo ran 11.4 seconds to win the men's senior 100m. Club-mate Donovan James took the 200m race in 23.1 seconds.

A distance of 5.24m was enough for Wolverhampton & Bilston's Sophie Worrall to win the women's senior long jump.

Cannock & Stafford athletes impressed in the javelin, with Rebecca Scott taking victory in the senior event and Bethan Rees the junior. Emma Douras of Dudley & Stourbridge won the senior high jump competition.



Birchfield Harriers' Archie England in the u-13s javelin



Alexia Bennett-Cordy, for Tipton, in the 80m hurdles

Rutter roars home to show true quality

BRIERLY Hill race Michael Rutter rolled back the years, demonstrating why he remains one of the world's greatest road racers by securing his 14th North West 200 win.

The victory moved Rutter, at the age of 45, to third on the all-time winners list at the famous North Irish triangular circuit, sandwiched between late, greats Joey Dunlop and his brother Robert.

He started the week in superb form, taking pole for the two Superbike races on Saturday – lapping the course at 122.345mph, his fastest ever around the 8.9-mile circuit – and was second on the grid for the opening Superstock and Supertwin races on the Thursday.

The Bathams/SMT Racing BMW rider would also eventually go on to secure two stunning second-place finishes and a third, which, added to his win, meant he had been on the podium in four out of his six races.

The results meant Rutter moved up to an astonishing 31 podiums, which has only been bettered by Alastair Seeley.

Rutter now heads to Donington Park for round four of the National Superstock 1000 Championship, this weekend, May 27-28, before making the trip across the Irish Sea for the Isle of Man TT races.

Service in memory of rugby club stalwart

A SERVICE of thanksgiving will be held next week for Stourbridge rugby stalwart John Jeavons-Fellows following his death at the age of 78.

Described as a 'leading light' in the Lions for the past 60 years, the popular official passed away peacefully in his sleep last Tuesday.

A former pupil of King Edward Grammar School, Jeavons-Fellows began playing for Stour's first team aged 18. At 19 he organised the club's first ever tour and was later appointed captain. After hanging up his boots, Jeavons-Fellows continued to work to improve the club.

He masterminded various stages of Stourbridge's development and helped provide the clubhouse that is currently in place at Bridgnorth Road. He was also keen for Stour to have a profile in the national game with his work ensuring Stourbridge became the training venue for England's Grand Slam winning team of 1980.

He also enjoyed roles as a rugby administrator with Worcestershire & Herefordshire and The North Midlands RFU. In 1997 he was also part of the British Lions management team for their tour to South Africa.

The service takes place at St Mary's, Old Swinford, at 2pm on June 2, and afterwards at Stourbridge Rugby Club.

Aces rally round for hospice fundraiser

CYCLE speedway side Wednesfield Aces are on track for a night of fun and fundraising later this year.

The charity night in aid of Compton Hospice will see 16 riders competing in five heats each in a handicap formula. The big night will be under the floodlights on Friday, September 15 at the club's Ashmore Park venue, hosted by Signal 107DJ Scott Lyons who will call the riders home.

Each participant is expected to raise £50 and there will be a collection bucket and a raffle on the evening. Everyone taking part will take home an award and the overall winner will take home the Steph Clarke Challenge Shield.

Mrs Clarke died in November 2016 at the same time as Wednesfield was enjoying its new Christmas lights – she had been the driving force behind its fundraising. She had been involved in several community projects including the Aces, Hands on Wednesfield and volunteered at the Ashmore Community Centre as well as running photography classes and working full-time as a social media trainer. Steph and her husband James founded the community website ww11.co.uk



SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

CHRON.SPORT@EXPRESSANDSTAR.CO.UK

Skipper stays positive as derby looms

WITH a weekend of rain and interruptions for bad weather only Halesowen's first and fourth team recorded any results for the weekend.

The first team travelled to a buoyant Oswestry who had won three out of three in the Birmingham League second division.

Halesowen batted first in a rain reduced game and in tricky conditions amassed 185-5 in 41 overs thanks to a return to form from Ed Kilbee (97*) and Hassan Quami with a well compiled 40. In reply Oswestry made a steady start built around Warrick Fynn (82).

Halesowen managed to take them to the last over as Oswestry limped over the line to win by three wickets. Halesowen remain bottom of Division 2 but captain Richard Brooker remains positive ahead of this weekend's derby with Harborne.

Brooker said: "We played some good cricket as we were batting in the worst of the conditions and having a couple of decisions not going our way when bowling. In a tight game of cricket these things matter more but I have to be pleased with the performance."

The fourths claimed a losing draw at Stourport. The home team totted up 219-9 with Archie Reeves taking 3-13 with his leg spin and in reply Halesowen managed 176-6 with a good contribution from Vinny O Grady (64*).

The club welcomed more than 50 new five-to-eight-year-olds to the ground on Friday as part of the new ECB All Stars initiative. For more information on the programme log onto <https://ecb.clubsark.uk/AllStars/Course/4eea1678-915c-414f-ac0f-ae728f71819>

Games this Saturday: 1st XI, noon, Harborne CC (h), Seth Somers Park; 2nd XI, 12.30pm, Harborne (a); 3rd XI, 1pm, Old Elizabethians (a); 4th XI, 1pm, Barlstone (h), Earls High School

Triathletes test their strength at home and abroad

FOUR Black Country triathletes took on the legendary Ironman Lanzarote which comprised a 2.4-mile sea swim, 112-mile bike and a 26.2-mile run. All finished well within the 18-hour cut off time.

In Sankt Wendel, Germany on Sunday, Paul Rogers and Robert Kennard represented Great Britain in the Powerman European Middle Distance Duathlon Championships in the 50-54 age group, with a 10km run, 60km bike then another 10km run. Rogers finished third in age group, collecting a bronze medal.

In Nottingham, all BCT athletes finished in fantastic times in the Outlaw Half, a 1,900m open water swim, 56-mile bike and a 13.1-mile run. Mark Anslow took on the Slateman Triathlon in Swowdonia, a 1,000m lake swim, a 51km bike ride and an 11km off road trail run. Reece Ashfield was first in age group and seventh overall in the Sprint Triathlon in Southport.

Adults and juniors raced in the Phoenix Sprint Tri at Ragley Hall, Warwickshire, and the Telford Tinman Sprint Tri, Super Sprint Tri and Wrekin Aquathlon at Wrekin College.

Legend Hancock races in to meet fans



Greg Hancock

GREG Hancock, one of Cradley Heath's all-time greats, will be back in the West Midlands to meet fans in July.

The reigning world champion, aged 46, started his professional career at the old Dudley Wood Stadium in 1989 but no longer races in the UK and splits his time between Sweden and California.

But on Thursday July 20 he will be on stage at the Cleveland Arms sports pub in Wolverhampton when fans will hear stories from his career, thoughts on this season and plans for the future.

Tickets are £12 standard or £30 VIP, to

Speedway

include early entry, buffet, priority seating and a picture with Hancock signed on the night. Doors open at 7pm for an 8pm start – but VIP doors open at 6pm.

Tickets are available from clevelandarms.com via paypal, on 01902 451021 or the Cradley club shop on racenights.

Meanwhile, current Cradley hero Danny Ayres is facing up to another Bank Holiday dash. Ayres takes his place in the Heathens side for their attractive

Monday night National League battle with Belle Vue at Wolverhampton. But in the afternoon he's riding for Premiership Leicester against Rye House.

Heathens follow Wolverhampton's fixture with Poole, which gets under way at 6pm. Normal Wolverhampton admission prices apply – Cradley season ticket holders can gain entry for £5 and there will be a turnstile open for the Heathens meeting only from 7.15 approximately.

Heathens beat Buxton on Sunday to go top of the league. They head to Lakeside on Sunday (3pm).

Blue hoops grace events over country

THERE was action a-plenty for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club at the weekend with the blue hoops gracing events right across the country.

Saturday saw three teams compete at Sutton Park in the British National Masters Road Relays where the cream of the nations over-35s from as far afield as Cambuslang and Kent raced hard over a three-mile circuit. The M55s were first off the blocks with Mark Homer leading the team out in 18.48, Roger Beddard finished in 21.41 and Andy Weaver ran a 20.45 leg to bring the team home in 19th place in a total time of 1.01.14.

Dave Norman led out the M35 team with a time of 18.34, Simon Blizzard ran 18.41, Darran Bishop 18.12, Simon Hughes 18.16, Stuart Perkins 17.34 and Kieran Pitt 20.15, a total of 1.51.32 placing the team in 26th place. And an incomplete team, a man down after a late defection, ran in the M45s with Richard Jones running 21.04, Graham Wildgoose 20.46 and John Andrews 22.43.

Over his favoured terrain of mud and hills Andy Sprague took part in the Shindig In The Shire race, a half marathon in deepest darkest Shropshire coming home second in 1.49.56. Lyn Sprague was 21st in 2.25.36 and Liz Hettle 48th in 3.09.45.

Twenty four hours later a couple of hoops took part in the Worcester Marathon. Sue Payton placing 141st in 4.19.38 and Gina Collins was 194th in 4.59.30. Stephen Marsh came home 151st in 82.59 in the Burton 10 and a larger group entered the RAF Shawbury 10k, a pancake flat course where there was a strong possibility of fast times.

Paul Baker was first hoop back in 45.17, taking 47th place, Dave Ede was 94th in 48.51, Lee Avery 105th in 49.32, Dave Garbutt was 124th in 50.22, Aimee Pugh 300th in 59.16 and Tony Noke stopped the clock in 351st in 1.04.42.

Baggies and Blues to face Glassboys

BIRMINGHAM and West Bromwich Albion will provide opposition for Stourbridge FC during the close-season.

The Glassboys' warm-up programme will feature a home game against Blues under-23s squad – a friendly agreed as part of the Dan Scarr transfer deal – taking place on July 18 at 7.30pm.

The opening game will be on July 8 against the Baggies under-23 squad at the Albion training ground.

Southern League Premier Division Redditch United will visit Amblecote on July 25 and there will be games at Stourport Swifts, Alvechurch, Sporting Khalsa and Hereford FC.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kitley, Telford. Thursday, May 25, 2017

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING The recycled content of newspapers in 2015 was 71%



NON-LEAGUE SHAKE-UP BID

SEVERAL Midlands football clubs are set to switch divisions as part of the biggest shake-up of non-league football for more than a decade.

The changes, set to be rubber-stamped by the FA, would see clubs including Stourbridge, Halesowen Town, Rushall Olympic and Hednesford Town – who all currently play in the Evo-Stik Northern League at step three of the non-league pyramid – incorporated into a new 'Midland Division' from the start of 2018/19.

Chasetown, who play a division below in the Evo-Stik Division One South, would also be affected, along with a host of clubs who currently ply their trade in the step five Midland Premier League, with more promotion places expected to be on offer next term in order to prepare for the most drastic realignment of the non-league game since the introduction of Conference North and South in 2004.

Feeder

The current structure sees three divisions operate at step three – the Northern League, Southern League and London-based Isthmian League – each with two feeder divisions at the step below.

Under the changes, a fourth division will now be introduced at step three. Though it will operate under the jurisdiction of the Southern League, it is expected to incorporate clubs in the 'Greater Midlands' area.

A further division will also be added at step four, under the control of Isthmian League with the proposals aimed at cutting travelling costs and times for fans, players and officials and encourage more step five clubs to climb the pyramid. Midlands clubs currently constitute the Northern League's most southern outposts and are almost certain to switch en masse to the new division. The proposals will also see the number of clubs in step three divisions cut from 24 to 22 teams, while the seven divisions in step four will carry 20 teams each once the changes have been introduced.

By far the biggest impact will see a drastic ef-

Club duo on road to Wimbledon



From left, Charlie Nicholls, Harvey Parsons, Michael Scriven and Bobby Gale

TWO Wollaston Tennis Club youngsters are on the road to Wimbledon after serving up success in Britain's biggest junior competition.

Harvey Parsons beat Michael Scriven in the club stage of the HSBC Road To Wimbledon event, aimed at players aged 14 and under.

Both will progress to the Staffordshire county finals in July. All county winners pro-

gresses to the national finals at Wimbledon.

The afternoon saw some excellent tennis and very closely fought matches over a four-hour period, with many matches decided on a third set championship tie-break.

Charlie Nicholls won the 3rd/4th play-off match against Bobby Gale.

Wollaston Junior chairman Dave Scriven, who organised

the club stage competition, said: "This is the first time Wollaston have entered this national competition. Our juniors were keen to compete and the club stage was both competitive and enjoyable."

Next month Wollaston Juniors will be participating in another LTA event. They will be sending doubles teams to a Team Challenge event between several local clubs.

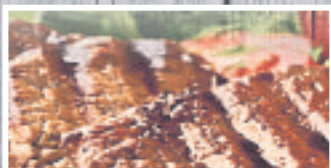
fect in the number of clubs being promoted or relegated next season to prepare for the revised structure.

Only one team will drop from each of the existing step three divisions, while a total of 19 clubs will be promoted from step four.

The increased number of promotions will also extend to step five, with a total of 26 promotion places set to be on offer across several divisions,

including the Midland Premier League, which currently houses the likes of Sporting Khalsa, Lye Town and AFC Wulfrunians, among others.

The changes, which have been approved by each league, will now officially be given the green light at the FA's AGM at Wembley today (Thursday), with the finer detail of how the new division's will be incorporated set to be thrashed out later in the summer.



We take bookings for private parties from 2 to 50 people

THE ROWLEY BAR & GRILL

Steaks | Mixed Grills | Curries

HAPPY HOUR - 1pm to 6pm Monday to Friday

Lagers, Ciders and Selected Top Shelf

NEW MENU
Now Available



BT Sport

07932 634 531

47 HAWES LANE, B65 9AF,

ROWLEY REGIS www.therowley.co.uk

FACEBOOK.COM/ROWLEYBARANDGRILL

THEROWLEYBAR

sky SPORTS